

Jaabari named to succeed Alami

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet decided Wednesday to appoint Sheikh Salim Jaabari as the new minister of occupied Jerusalem to succeed Sheikh Suleiman Alami, who passed away in the Holy City last week. The Cabinet also decided to form a new Council of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Jerusalem following the death of Sheikh Alami and former governor of Jerusalem Anwar Al Khatib. The new council includes Sheikh Abdul Ahsan Hussein Salhab as chairman and Sheikh Ali Al Tarir as deputy chairman. It includes as members Mohammad Nuseibeh, Hassan Tabbarah, Adnan Al Hussein, Hayyan Al Idri, Ibrahim Sabri, Azam Al Akar, Mahmud Salameh, Munir Al Sa'eh and Mustafa Abu Zahra. The Council decided also to form a new committee for the reconstruction of the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques. The committee, which will be chaired by the minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, includes as members the ministry's secretary general, the chairman of the Council of Awqaf in Jerusalem, the director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, Asim Ghosheh, the secretary general of the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs, the assistant secretary general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for the West Bank Affairs, Salem Ali Salem, Ali Al Tarir and Hassan Tabbarah. The Council of Ministers also decided to appoint Sheikh Abdul Qader Abdeen as the West Bank representative of the chief justice.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Volume 17 Number 5237

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18-19, 1993, SHA'RAN 26-27, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Christopher arrives in Mideast today

Combined agency dispatches

THE CLINTON administration's Middle East diplomacy got into high gear Wednesday with Secretary of State Warren Christopher launching a regional shuttle aimed at reviving the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process.

The regional players Wednesday prepared for the trip of Mr. Christopher, who has said he was seeking to sound out Middle Eastern leaders on resuming the peace talks rather than sinning for an outright go-ahead.

In related developments: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was in Cairo holding talks with Egyptian leaders; Mr. Christopher to pressure Israel into improving a compromise offer and allow the return of all Palestinians it expelled on Dec. 17.

A Palestinian peace negotiator said the Palestinians would call on Mr. Christopher to resume the suspended American dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO); Israeli leaders said they remained optimistic that the U.S. secretary of state would be able to resolve the crisis sparked by

the Dec. 17 expulsion of Palestinians; and — An American senator said U.S. aid to the Jewish state could be reduced but Washington was looking for alternate means to help Israel.

Mr. Christopher, scheduled to leave for Cairo late Wednesday, said his main aim would be to hear out the key leaders in the region and learn their views. He discouraged expectations he would be able to restart peace talks immediately.

But most people will likely judge the new secretary of state's mission by a single test — can he persuade Arabs and Israelis to return to the peace negotiations they broke off last December?

Without being drawn on whether they could or would make such a commitment during his upcoming week in the region, Mr. Christopher said Tuesday the portents were good.

"I hope that, subsequently, the peace process can be restarted with a rescheduling of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, but I would not expect that to happen during the course of my trip," he said.

His first stop is Egypt, to be followed by Jordan, Syria, Saudi

Arabia, Kuwait and Israel. A trip to Lebanon is also possible although no decision will be made until the last moment because of security considerations.

The crux of the mission will be in occupied Jerusalem, where Mr. Christopher will have the task of talking Palestinian leaders into returning to the peace talks they left on Dec. 17, when Israel expelled 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories, setting off a protracted crisis that Mr. Christopher has had to spend much of his first month in office defusing.

He brokered a deal with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin under which the Israelis agreed to return 100 of the evictees from their wind-swept exile in South Lebanon immediately and cut the expulsion terms of the rest to a one-year maximum.

The U.N. Security Council accepted the deal and Arab states seem ready to return to the talks as well. But the Palestinians called it a cynical ploy to get Israel off the hook.

A senior PLO official, Yasser Arafat-Rahbo, said Tuesday Palestinians would boycott the peace talks even if other Arabs agreed to take part.



Warren Christopher

With the Palestinians still unwilling to resume talks, Mr. Christopher and his aides have been lowering expectations.

"It's primarily a fact-finding and get-acquainted trip for me," he said. "I think I'll be quite satisfied if I have an opportunity to listen to what they have to say."

Some analysts think he is lowering expectations too far. "I think the parties would like to see him come out with a definite agenda and I imagine they won't be disappointed," said Robert Sattoff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Mr. Arafat, chairman of the PLO, was holding talks with Osama Al Baz, (Continued on page 4)

King praises security forces' role in protecting the society

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday voiced his absolute confidence in the security services of Jordan and his keenness to provide the Public Security Department (PSD) with every possible means to help it secure its requirements and discharge its duties.

Addressing a meeting of senior officers during his visit to the PSD, King Hussein said that the PSD was carrying out the sacred duty of protecting citizens and the nation and, therefore, it requires full backing in this respect.

Addressing the audience, he said, "All of you, members of the public security service, represent the vigilant eyes, the



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday listens to a briefing on Public Security Department facilities (Petra photo)

living conscience and the absolute bravery, through your sacred duty, and therefore all of you are worth of appreciation."

"You have been entrusted

with the task of protecting the Jordanian family and with the task of serving the great Arab Nation," said King Hussein in his address.

Voicing his pride in the young police officers who serve with the U.N. peace keeping forces along with the troops chosen from the Jordanian Armed Forces, King Hussein said that "Jordanian security men and soldiers have proven their competence and skill which is a cause of pride for all of us."

He said he was filled with pride for this esteemed character of the Jordanian forces during his inspection of the

(Continued on page 4)

Prince Hassan: Road to democracy never easy

PARIS (Petra) — The current transformations that both Eastern Europe and the states of the former Soviet Union are undergoing are in many ways comparable to the situation in Jordan. The road to democracy will never be safe or easy, but it is one which Jordanians must walk. As Jordan approach its second free elections later this year, it looks to Europe for constructive input and support.

This came in an address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at a dinner hosted by the

French Institute for International Relations in Paris Monday night. The dinner, which was held at the Senate House, was attended by 50 politicians, including the French minister for foreign affairs, businessmen, and journalists.

The Crown Prince pointed out during his address that, to the Middle East, Europe's achievements in the last 50 years have been inspirational. For while both regions have age-old conflicts and rivalries, Europe has developed mechanisms to ensure

peace. Jordan is particularly encouraged by the Helsinki process, and believe a similar process would benefit the Middle East. This would require a re-definition of the region, in which the Mediterranean would no longer be a divide, but a connection, he said.

Jordan welcomes the European Community's (EC's) contribution to the peace process, which is currently at a critical point and must not be allowed to falter, he

(Continued on page 4)

Crown Prince arrives in Italy

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan arrived in Rome Wednesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. It said the Prince was received by a senior member of the Italian Cabinet.

Prince Hassan is scheduled to hold talks with Italian leaders on the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Italian as well as Jordanian-European relations.

Hizbollah escalates attacks on Israelis

MABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Resistance fighters blasted Israeli and allied forces in South Lebanon Wednesday, triggering seven hours of artillery and rocket duels that hit dozens of villages.

Security sources said at least two civilians were killed and 30 were wounded in an Israeli bombardment on villages near the southern market town of Nabatieh, which was also hit by shells.

Hizbollah (Party of God) said in a statement its fighters stormed four posts and captured several South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen, including an officer, and some arms. There was no independent confirmation.

It said 10 "enemy soldiers" were killed and 25 wounded. But security sources said 14 militiamen were wounded — most lightly — in the assault marking the first anniversary of the killing of Hizbollah chief Sheikh Abbas Musawi in an Israeli helicopter ambush.

Israeli military sources said one guerrilla was killed and seven SLA militiamen were wounded, including one seriously.

The big guns fell silent after seven hours of barrages in the fiercest round of violence in the south in five months.

Police said 120 Hizbollah fighters staged the attack.

The fighting raged along a 30-kilometre arc on the northern edge of a self-declared "security zone" Israel occupied to shield its northern flank against cross border attacks.

One Hizbollah communiqué said squads of its Islamic Resistance Mujahedeen (holy warriors) overran SLA outposts at Sujod, Sweida, Tobra and Ali Taher at 6 a.m. (0400 GMT).

"Our fighters inflicted many casualties on the enemy and brought back spoils of weapons and ammunition and captives, including an enemy militia commander," said a Hizbollah communiqué.

Palestinians said moving towards Egypt/Meretz-proposed solution

By Mariana M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The political impasse between Palestinians and Israelis as a result of Israel's unwillingness to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 799 may come to an end within the next 10 days, a senior Palestinian diplomat said Wednesday.

"The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) is seriously considering the possibility of an interim solution to the evictees crisis," said the Tunis-based diplomat on condition of anonymity during a brief visit to Jordan. "There is an Egyptian Meretz-backed proposal which would allow for 101 evictees to be returned now and would call for the transfer of the rest to the Marjayoun district" in the Israeli-controlled South Lebanon security zone, said the diplomat.

Meretz is the junior partner in the coalition government in Israel.

The move would make the nearly 400 expelled prisoners rather than evictees, said the official. While such a move would

be a far cry from the implementation of Resolution 799, it would solve the impasse in and clear the way for the resolution of the peace talks which have been stalled since Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon on Dec. 17.

"If officially offered such a solution, we accept it," confirmed an Amman-based senior Palestinian official who also asked to remain anonymous.

"This is the only solution that has been discussed so far that would be a sort of face-saving formula," added the official, a veteran member of the Palestinian Central Council.

The proposal, originally advanced by members of Meretz, won support from the Egyptian government, PLO officials say.

Yasser Arafat, who has been involved in a flurry of diplomatic talks with Egyptian officials for most of the last two weeks, is said to have privately spoken in favour of the solution. "The chairman is not going public with his thoughts just yet, he is waiting for an overture from the Israelis. When they officially make the

offer he can officially accept, not before," said the diplomat, who is considered to be a close confidant and ally of the PLO chairman.

Many PLO officials and members of the Palestinian negotiating team have called the proposal "cynical," others see no other solution for the moment.

"Several top PLO officials are urging the PLO chairman to accept the proposal because they are afraid that we will lose this historic chance to make peace with the Israelis," commented another Tunis-based PLO official who is not in favour of the interim solution.

"Interim solutions are non-solutions," said the official. But not all PLO officials agree with this analysis. "The inner circle of pro-talks members are encouraging Abu Ammar (Mr. Arafat) to grab this opportunity and I am one of them," said the diplomat.

"We will work towards the gradual return of all the expelled. But let us get the first 100 in; (Continued on page 4)

Israeli squad kills boy in Askar

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Soldiers shot dead an 18-year-old boy and three other Palestinians Wednesday after they allegedly threw stones at an army patrol passing through a West Bank refugee camp.

The army said the troops opened fire in the Askar refugee camp when the youths started to run away and ignored an order to halt.

Arab reporters said the soldiers were disguised as Arabs. The army said its troops were conducting a raid, but would not say if they were operating undercover.

The dead boy was identified as Salim Al Ja'ar, a high-school senior, who became the 1,039th Palestinian killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians in the five-year revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

Elsewhere Wednesday, the army closed down a Palestinian drug rehabilitation centre near Jericho and arrested 10 workers, saying they employed illegal methods.

The army said operators of the centre kidnapped people, held them without their consent and beat them to try to weed them from drugs.

The directors commented that they were using Islamic methods, an army statement said.

The justice ministry said state attorney Dorit Benish has recommended that steps be taken against a Shin Bet security service interrogator and a prison authority medic who worked the night a Palestinian detainee died in custody.

The ministry said it did not know what action would be taken.

Mr. Benish noted, however, the two could not be directly linked to the death of the prisoner, according to ministry spokeswoman Etti Eshel.

Mr. Benish recommended that the Shin Bet take steps to ensure that orders are followed on the conditions of detention, she said.

Mustafa Akawi, 36, died in February 1992 in a Shin Bet detention centre in the West Bank town of Hebron.

No more price hikes for subsidised foodstuff, Saqqaf tells Parliament

By Aymun Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday postponed till Sunday a debate of the government's pricing policy as Minister of Supply Mohammad Al Saqqaf pledged no price increases of government-subsidised food items this year.

The House was scheduled to hold a general discussion of official pricing mechanism Wednesday but decided to put off the debate until deputies study an outline of it presented to the House by Mr. Saqqaf.

Mr. Saqqaf said that except for bread prices, which were hiked by 10 fils per kilogramme this month, the government does not plan to increase the price of or lift subsidies from basic foodstuffs.

Explaining the government's pricing system, Mr. Saqqaf said the government divides goods and services into three categories: Basic foodstuffs which citizens can purchase with coupons at subsidised prices; unbasic but

essential food items whose prices are set by the government; and other goods and services for which a government committee sets a maximum profit margin.

While asserting no price hikes of basic food items were in the offing, the minister said price increases of unbasic imported foodstuffs can be prompted by rising cost in the countries of origin.

Saying that previous governments did not deal "seriously" with price increases of wheat, failing to raise prices gradually to correspond to the growing international prices, Mr. Saqqaf said the present government had no choice but to raise the prices of what he called a food item "essential to a great sector of society suffering from a decline in the purchasing power of its income."

Mr. Saqqaf said the failure to raise prices of bread increased the amount of government subsidies to wheat and led to unnecessary government overspending.

The government's subsidies of

wheat amounted to JD 41.6 million, JD 34.4 million, JD 34.7 million and JD 40.3 million in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 respectively.

Mr. Saqqaf reported an improvement of the inflation rate in 1992 over the last four years with cost of living rising by four per cent in 1992 compared to 8.2 per cent in 1991, 16.1 per cent in 1990 and 25.7 per cent in 1989.

According to Mr. Saqqaf, the inflation rate in 1992 rose by three per cent for food items, 3.9 per cent for housing sector, 8.6 per cent for clothes and 4.3 per cent for other goods and services.

The marginal value of these sectors to the price index, according to Mr. Saqqaf, is 38.5 per cent, 38.1 per cent, 7.4 per cent and 23.3 per cent respectively.

Voicing pride in the "success" of the government's economic policy, the minister said that the economic plan "for the coming years" aims at increasing per

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Arafat due here today for talks on peace process, Iraq mediation trip

By Mariana M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected to arrive in Amman today in preparation of the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Jordan. Mr. Arafat, who is expected to confer with senior Jordanian officials on both the Jordanian and Palestinian positions vis-a-vis the continuation of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, will then go on to visit Iraq for the second time this month.

Mr. Arafat will visit Baghdad and confer with the Iraqi leadership in an attempt to bring Iraq into the Arab fold, an Arab diplomat said.

The thrust of the effort is to reconcile Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the diplomat said.

"It may be strange but Egypt will be the Arab country to bring Iraq back into the Arab fold and eventually into the international arena," the diplomat said on con-

dition of anonymity.

Mr. Arafat is the "middle man" in the reconciliation effort, according to diplomats and Palestinian officials in Amman and Tunis.

"In addition to securing Palestinian-Iraqi relations, Chairman Arafat is also carrying messages from the Egyptian leadership to the Iraqi leadership," confirmed a Tunis-based PLO official.

Egypt, with implicit U.S. support, is trying to pave the way for Iraq's reintegration into the region, the diplomat said. The main reason for the reconciliation bid at this time are multi-fold.

The United States wants Iraq back in the game for three main reasons, explained the diplomat. "One is to offset the growing power of Iran; Second, to put Iraqi oil back into the market. And, the third is because full peace between Israel and the Arabs requires Iraq's consent."

Iraq's growing military and economic power has been publicly cited by senior Iraqi officials as a reason why they believe other

Arab countries and the West should reconsider and reassess their relations with Iraq.

The Palestinian officials say that once sanctions on Iraq are lifted oil prices will drop and that this is in the interest of the West.

"The West will gain tremendously from a reconciliation with Iraq," said the Palestinian official.

"For one the Iraqis have already said — unofficially of course — that they are willing to give most of their contracts to U.S. firms and companies and buy American-made products once the sanctions are lifted," the official said.

Senior Iraqi ministry of trade officials recently told the Jordan Times that with a population of 18 million people and some of the largest underground oil reserves in the world Iraq represents a big market for U.S. industries.

While there have been no public statements by the U.S. State Department to indicate that U.S.

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Palestinian delegates hope for lifeline

KHAN YOUNIS, occupied Gaza Strip (R) — Standing in the rubble of an Israeli-rocketed house, Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein tried to explain what he needed from next week's visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to resume stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks.

He was drenched out by firing in the air and a shouting match between supporters of the U.S.-sponsored talks and opponents from the Islamic resistance movement Hamas.

Mr. Hussein, seen as the Palestine Liberation Organisation's main man in the occupied West Bank, had ventured for the second time in a week in to the hotbed of the Gaza Strip. He offered his sympathy to 35 families whose houses had been blasted to pieces by the Israeli army as collective punishment for a guerrilla attack.

The householders were polite as Mr. Hussein and some 40 other members of the peace talks team crunched over broken glass and bullet-ridden furniture. But with the visitors gone they voiced their doubts or outright opposition to the peace process.

If a pile of rubble was all 16

months of talking to Israelis had brought them, why bother to go back to the Washington peace table?

That feeling has strengthened since Israel's expulsion of 415 alleged activists, many of them Hamas supporters from Gaza, in December. The army fuelled this resentment with its iron-fist suppression of the protests that followed the expulsions to South Lebanon. It has shot dead nearly 50 Palestinians.

Mr. Hussein and the secular PLO were forced into a corner by the expulsions. They had to support Hamas, their biggest rival, because expulsion is the one issue that can unite all Palestinians, a people haunted by the memory of expulsion and flight since 1948.

Nowhere has the pressure been greater than in Gaza, Haidar Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator who is from Gaza, has said he will not return to Washington until the expellees are brought back from their tent camp in Lebanon which has refused to accept them.

Mr. Hussein and other delegates have been casting around for a lifeline which would allow them to resume the talks without

losing the Palestinian street.

They hope Mr. Christopher, who begins a visit to the Middle East Thursday, can wring concessions from Israel and an easing of conditions for the two million Palestinians living under occupation.

Israel has already struck a deal with the new Clinton administration to shield itself against United Nations pressure for failing to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the return of the expellees. It has offered to return 100 expellees and halve the expulsion term of the rest to one year. Mr. Hussein insisted Israel declare it will respect the U.N. resolution but he left himself some room for manoeuvre by not spelling out in detail how it should do so.

"First the declaration and then action. We can sit together and see how the action be implemented," Mr. Hussein told Reuters after leaving Gaza.

In Khan Yousif he did not speak of this but focused instead on the need for Israel to show it was serious about peace by stopping repression and punishment.

"If they are serious they should not do such a thing," he said pointing to a flattened room. "If they are working for more destruction this peace process has no meaning. Without changing the situation, without cancelling completely the order of deportation and without cancelling it completely in the future, without taking out all these obstacles including collective punishment, for sure, the peace process will not be a peace process — it will be a waste of time."

The chanting for Hamas grew louder. It was silenced by the appearance of three masked PLO men firing in the air. They greeted Mr. Hussein and melted away.

The cheering resumed but for Hamas's own military wing, the Qassam units which have killed seven Israeli soldiers since December while the PLO has backed off armed attacks.

"The majority is still supporting us," Mr. Hussein said. "But one year later (a mediator) will not be interested in meeting me. He will be searching for someone else. Maybe some one with a big bread."

U.N. envoy arrives in Eritrea

AMMAN (J.T.) — Samir Sanbar, the special representative of the secretary-general for the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER), has arrived in Asmara, Eritrea, to take up his duties, a U.N. press release said. According to a United Nations spokesman, Mr. Sanbar met with the referendum commissioner, Amare Tekle, to discuss preparations for the referendum process. He also met with the deputy foreign secretary of the provisional government of Eritrea. The foreign secretary is away attending a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). Mr. Sanbar also met with the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and representatives of other U.N. agencies, on the need to emphasise a unified integrated U.N. presence in Eritrea. The referendum in Eritrea is expected to be completed by April. At present, 17 of 21 advance mission staff are in Asmara.

Qadhafi sends message to King Fahd

RIYADH (AP) — Crown Prince Abdullah received a message from Libya Tuesday amid reports that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi hopes the Clinton administration will ease sanctions against his country. Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Muntasser gave the message to Prince Abdullah, asking that it be passed on to King Fahd, Arab diplomats said on condition of anonymity. The diplomats did not disclose the contents, but indicated that the message included a request for Saudi Arabia to convince the United States to ease arms and air travel embargoes against Libya. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is to visit Saudi Arabia on his tour of the Middle East that starts Wednesday.

Mozambique bars Egyptian embassy staffer

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique said Tuesday it had declared an Egyptian embassy staffer persona non grata for unacceptable moral behaviour. A Foreign Ministry statement said Mokhtar Mostafa Haggag, administrative attaché at the embassy, had displayed "moral conduct incompatible with his status as a person and a diplomat." Foreign Ministry officials declined to give further details about Mr. Haggag, who left the country last Wednesday. Egyptian Ambassador Mohammad Esmat Abdul Azeem described the affair as "a minor incident" apparently involving Mr. Haggag and a Mozambican citizen. He said Mr. Haggag was not a diplomat although he had a diplomatic passport.

Afghan groups reported holding Tajiks

MOSCOW (R) — Hardline Islamic groups in northern Afghanistan are holding refugees from chaotic fighting over the border with Tajikistan against their will, a senior United Nations official said Tuesday. "Many of the refugees wish to leave the areas where they are at the moment. Some of the Afghan groups are simply preventing them from going," said Philippe Labrevaux, in charge of aid to an estimated 60,000 Tajik refugees inside Afghanistan. "We are having major difficulties protecting and ensuring the human rights of refugees," he said. Tajikistan has issued a separate protest to Afghanistan, demanding Afghan guerrillas stay on their side of the border and away from the Tajik side. TASS news agency said the protest, published in the capital Dushanbe Tuesday, notes that violations and attacks on border patrols have become particularly frequent of late. It said armed subversion groups were operating on the Afghan side. Ex-Soviet troops, now under Russian control, patrol the volatile border and have reported deaths among their own forces in skirmishes. Guards from five other ex-Soviet states pledged last month to join them.

Kuwait, Russia sign defence memorandum

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, seeking to lengthen a growing list of military alliances, has signed a memorandum of understanding on a possible defence pact with Russia. The memorandum was signed by the defence minister, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, and visiting Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev Tuesday. "The memorandum is the first step towards enhancing future relationships and I expect this will include signing a (defence) agreement during 1993," a diplomat said. Kuwait concluded defence agreements with the United States, Britain and France after they led the war that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate in 1991. Government officials say the agreements are aimed at strengthening the emirate's armed forces through joint exercises and training. The diplomat said possible Kuwaiti purchases of Russian arms were not discussed during Mr. Grachev's visit but added the issue might be raised once the defence agreement was signed. Kuwait plans to buy up to \$15 billion worth of arms by the end of the decade.

Syria, Kuwait to improve economic cooperation

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria and Kuwait agreed Tuesday to enhance their cooperation under an economic and trade agreement signed in 1991 after Syrian troops helped liberate the emirate during the Gulf war. Winding up a three-day meeting between finance ministry delegations from the two countries, both sides expressed satisfaction with their economic relations. Syria's deputy premier for economic affairs, Salim Yassin, and Kuwait's planning and finance minister, Nasser Abdullah Al Roudan, issued a statement saying that they expect to hold their next meeting a year from now. Mr. Roudan described Syrian-Kuwaiti relations as "great and deeply rooted" even before Iraqi troops invaded the emirate in 1990. Syrian and Egyptian troops led the Arab contingent in the U.S.-led military operation that liberated Kuwait.

Ozal meets Bulgaria's ethnic Turks

SOFIA (R) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal met politicians and representatives of Bulgaria's ethnic Turks on Tuesday on the second day of a visit to Bulgaria, the first by a Turkish head of state for 11 years. The three-day trip is focused mainly on improving economic ties and discussing the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. On Tuesday, Mr. Ozal discussed plans to create a Black Sea economic zone and he told politicians he wanted Turkey to boost its investment in Bulgaria, a participant in one of the meetings, which

were closed to the press, said. Mr. Ozal also met leaders of the Turkish Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF), now Bulgaria's third largest political party. Bulgaria's former communist leaders had tried to force the Turkish community to abandon its cultural identity. Turks were forced to adopt Bulgarian names, many mosques were shut and the Turkish language was banned in public places, schools and the media. On Monday, Mr. Ozal, who is touring the Balkan states in an attempt to defuse tension in the region, said Turkey would probably join United Nations troops if they were sent to restore peace in former Yugoslavia. Sofia has said on several occasions it would refrain from any kind of military action in former Yugoslavia, but Turkey fears the war might spread if Serbian advances are left unchecked.

Moroccan teachers go on 48-hour strike

RABAT (R) — Morocco's primary and secondary school teachers and civil servants in the Ministry of Education went on a 48-hour strike on Tuesday to demand better pay and working conditions. A communiqué issued by teachers' unions said the strike was decided because of the government's "silence" over their demands for the last 10 years. A spokesman for one of the unions said 180,000 teachers and civil servants had responded to the strike call. Government officials said the strike was politically motivated as Morocco's first legislative elections in eight years, expected at the end of April, were drawing nearer. The teachers' unions are associated with the Democratic Bloc, composed of four opposition parties which have withdrawn from a national commission set up by King Hassan to control the elections and ensure they are free and honest. The parties have said they withdrew because the commission had failed to implement decisions to revise the electoral law and draw up new constituency boundaries.

Sudan commutes spy case death sentence

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's chief justice has commuted the death sentence passed on a retired army colonel for spying, the armed forces newspaper reported Wednesday. A special military court last May sentenced Colonel Nasir Hassan Bashir to be hanged for spying and passing classified documents to foreign publications deemed hostile to Sudan. Col. Bashir, son of a former defence minister, also collaborated with a foreign-based opposition group, the court decided. Al Guwat Al Musallahah military newspaper said Chief Justice Jalal Ali Lutfi commuted the sentence to life imprisonment for "family reasons." It gave no further details. A five-year jail sentence handed to his brother Zaki Hassan Bashir for his role in the affair was confirmed. A sergeant and a corporal also found guilty of involvement had their jail sentences reduced.

3 jailed for Turkish synagogue bombing

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish state security court has sentenced three Muslims to jail for the attempted bombing of a synagogue in Istanbul, court officials said Wednesday. Nazim Ortac and Mahmut Akkol each received 10 years and 10 months in prison for the attempted attack on the Neve Shalom synagogue in March 1992. Musa Ozer was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment. The court said the three were members of the outlawed pro-Iranian Hizbollah network. A fourth man, Ali Duvayr, was cleared of all charges and released from custody. Authorities have detained more than 100 Hizbollah members in recent months for acts of bombings and killings, mainly in southeast Turkey. Interior Ministry officials said, Interior Minister Ismet Serdar said earlier this month that radicals trained in Iran had staged political actions in Turkey. He said 19 members of the shadowy Islamic Action group, accused of killing two pro-secular journalists and an Iranian dissident, had told police they had been trained in Iran. Tehran denies any involvement.

U.S.-Israeli team wins Pentagon contract

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's Aircraft Industries announced Tuesday it has won a \$200 million dollar Defence Department contract to produce remote-control surveillance airplanes with an American company. The Tel Aviv area-based company will produce the small unmanned vehicles, also known as "drones," for the U.S. army and Marine Corps in cooperation with TRW Inc., of Cleveland, Ohio, a statement said. The small aircraft can be used to spy over enemy controlled territory for surveillance and to pinpoint targets. Some were reportedly used by American forces during the Gulf war and Israel has used them since the 1982 Lebanon war. They have clocked more than 35,000 hours of flight, Israel Aircraft Industries spokeswoman Sylvia Beth Halahmi said. The 56 drones ordered will be ready for delivery in three years, Ms. Beth-Halahmi said.

Floods may have killed 300 in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Flooding in Iran's southeastern Hormozgan province earlier this month killed at least 110 people and left 224 missing and feared dead, state-run Iranian radio reported Tuesday. The floods caused extensive damage to 1,720 villages, water and electricity installations, and agriculture in the area, said the radio. No other details were disclosed in the report, which the radio said was based on figures announced by the province's director of emergency services to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

Settler guard fatally shot during robbery

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Jewish settler was shot to death Tuesday during a robbery at a cable factory outside Tel Aviv, police said. The suspect the murderer was an Arab acting on criminal as well as nationalist motives, a spokeswoman said. The victim, Yizhar Mansour, 23, of Ma'ar El-Fraim in the occupied West Bank, sustained multiple gunshot wounds while guarding the Archa factory north of Petach Tikvah his body was found early Tuesday morning. Many cables were stolen, the spokeswoman said. She added that there was "also a suspicion of a nationalist motive" behind the slaying because of the multiple gunshot wounds and other findings she would not describe. No immediate arrests were made. Israel Television said Mansour was shot with a pistol seven times at close range, in the temple and abdomen. Two shots appeared to have been fired after he was already dead, the report said.

Egypt adopts law curbing fundamentalist sweep of unions

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's parliament has approved a law imposing conditions for elections in professional unions that will limit the influence of Muslim fundamentalists.

President Hosni Mubarak's government introduced the bill, spurred into action by the Egyptian bar association's election last September of an overwhelmingly fundamentalist ruling council. Unions regulating engineers, doctors and pharmacists already had elected Islamist leaders.

The government depicted the law, passed Tuesday night, as a guarantor of democracy in the country's 21 professional unions. Muslim fundamentalists denounced the statute, saying it suppresses freedoms. They staged protest sit-ins at some union headquarters.

The law unifies electoral rules of all unions, each of which had its own regulations.

Under the law, no election of officers will be accomplished by less than 33 per cent of the eligible voters.

If an association cannot round up that quorum after four tries in a three-month period, government appointed judges will rule the union for no more than six months. They will decide when to start the voting process again.

Under the law, voting is "a professional duty" for union members that cannot be ignored without a valid excuse. It imposes fines on those who fail to vote.

The government hopes that regulations will bring out voters to counter the influence of Muslim fundamentalist sympathisers, smaller in number but better organised and more motivated than the bulk of largely apathetic unionists.

Most fundamentalists controlling unions belong to the proscribed but officially tolerated Muslim Brotherhood. A sprinkling of unionist leaders support the extremist Al Gama'a Al Islamiya, blamed for dozens of attacks on foreign tourists, police and Christians in recent years. Stung by the new measure, a

Muslim Brotherhood leader holding a key union post appealed for its cancellation in an open letter to President Mubarak.

Ahmad Saif Al Islam Hassan Al Banna, secretary general of the bar association, called the measure "flagrant aggression on professional unions. Mr. Banna is the son of Sheikh Hassan Banna, who founded the Muslim Brotherhood in 1920.

Brotherhood candidates last September won two thirds of the bar association's council seats. This and other fundamentalist gains in union councils worried the government which bans religion based on political parties.

After last October's earthquake in which 576 people died, the government was criticised for delays in matching a relief effort organised by a doctors union committee controlled by the Brotherhood.

The new law forbids unions from collecting money or accepting donations for any purpose other than union business.

Bosnian president wins 1993 Faisal prize

RIYADH (AP) — President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina won the 1993 King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam Tuesday for his defence of the fledgling Bosnian state.

The award was granted for Mr. Izetbegovic's writings and defence of the Bosnian Muslims against the bloody campaign by ethnic Serbs to drive them from their homes, or "ethnic cleansing."

Prince Khalid Al Faisal, who heads the prize's King Faisal Foundation, announced this year's winners for service to Islam, Arabic literature, science, medicine and Islamic studies at a news conference.

The prizes — consisting of a certificate, gold medalion and 350,000 riyals (\$93,333) are the Islamic World's version of the Nobel prizes, though non-Muslims are eligible to win. Joint recipients share the monetary grant.

Mr. Izetbegovic won for his Islamic writings and organising and defending Islam as a political force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said Abdullah Al Othaimin, the foundation's secretary general.

The Bosnian Serbs have been "uprooted from their ancestral land, exposed to a vicious campaign of ethnic cleansing, subjected to organised mass rapes and genocide, and herded into concentration camps," Mr. Othaimin said.

The Islamic studies prize went to Egyptian Scholar Hassan Al Saati Abdul Aziz of Ain Shams University in Cairo for 40 years of studies in sociology, a field long dominated by Western thought.

A French research team headed by Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute won the medicine prize for discovering the AIDS virus. The co-winners included Dr. Françoise Barré Sinoussi and Dr. Jean-Claude Chermann.

The science prize went to Germany's Dr. Herbert Walther, co-director of the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics, and Dr. Steven Chu, an American who chairs the physics department at Stanford University. They were cited for their contribution to the development of quantum optics.

No winners were named for Arabic literature. The selection committee stated that the works in competition "did not accurately represent the modern Arabic play."

Human rights group censures Turkey, urges it to end torture

WASHINGTON (AP) — Helsinki Watch has renewed an appeal for Turkey to end police torture and said suspects are still dying there in detention.

The human rights organisation, based in the United States, said it was "deeply disturbed by reports of deaths... that take place during the interrogation of suspects at police stations throughout Turkey."

"In 1992, 16 people died in the custody of police or gendarmes," Helsinki Watch said in a report distributed Tuesday to news media. It listed the names of all 16.

"We urge the government of Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to carry out its promise to end torture," it said, adding that authorities should acknowledge a pattern of torture in police detention centres and permit prisoners to be represented by lawyers from the first moment of detention.

The report, by Helsinki Watch

Deputy Director Lois Whitman, said it remains to be seen whether Turkey will enforce legal reforms enacted last November forbidding torture and guaranteeing legal consultation to detainees.

The new Turkish law permits eight days of incommunicado detention for ordinary defendants and 30 days for political suspects, the report said. "In excess of what is permissible under international law" or under rulings of the European Human Rights Court.

During detention, it said, ordinary criminal and political suspects are routinely subjected to "appalling torture techniques." Those described included suspension by the arms or wrists while naked and blindfolded, electric shocks to the genitals, "rape, both vaginal and anal, sometimes using truncheons or gun barrels," pulling clumps of hair from victims and placing them in small cells with attack dogs.

Helsinki Watch is the branch of Human Rights Watch that moni-

tors Europe. The organisation promotes the basic rights enumerated in the 1975 Helsinki East-West agreement.

Its report on Turkey was in line with findings of the U.S. State Department's country-by-country report to congress last month on human rights in 1992.

The State Department said that in Turkey "the number of political murders and extrajudicial killings increased in 1992," and that at least 15 "died in suspicious circumstances while in official custody, some possibly as a result of torture."

"Western governments, parliaments, and non-governmental organisations publicly expressed disappointment at the Turkish government's slow pace in implementing reforms to curb torture, its failure in most cases to try, convict, and punish those who engage in torture, and its failure to investigate effectively 'mystery killings' and disappearances," the State Department said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Pif el Hercule
17:45 Les Mages
18:15 L'ecole des fans
18:40 News in French
19:15 Azimuts
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 The Human Factor
22:00 News in English
22:20 Fancie Film: "The Love Tapes"

PRAYER TIMES

06:55 Fajr
10:13 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:50 Dhuhr
14:58 'Asr
17:26 Maghrib
18:44 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543
Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824 and 624932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be southeasterly moderate, turning to southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 2/12
Aqaba 8/20
Desert 1/15
Jordan Valley 8/18
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 2, Aqaba 13. Humidity readings:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

ABDUL: Dr. Bahjat Bader 849362
Dr. Hisham Karara 790286
Dr. Mohammad Shukri 626993
Dr. Isam Al Asmar 895004
Piras pharmacy 661912
Forlows pharmacy 776336
Al Azzam pharmacy 637055
Nairoba pharmacy 626762
Al Sulhan pharmacy 636739
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Sunshine pharmacy 637660
Najih pharmacy 647632
BRIBD: Dr. Lutfi Al Shababi 241798
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA: Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 986871

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 891226
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 637777
Blood Bank 771211
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896399
Public Security Department 630321
Hospital Complaints 665880
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 891226
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 622490
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100

HOSPITALS

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200
IBS: Ibsa Sin Hospital (09)980732
Al Hana Modern Hospital (09)799998
BRIBD: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibsa Al Nahas Hospital (02)247100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khaliq Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkhik Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mathias, J. Amman 656140
Pakifine, Shmeisat 6647114
Shmeisat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Masheer Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66612157
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Hafina, Al-Masheer 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775111/26
Army, Marjeh 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224900
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90560

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:15 Samn (RJ)
06:25 Riyadh (RJ)
06:35 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)

09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:20 Colombo (RJ)
12:15 Beirut (RJ)
13:45 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:30 Riyadh (SU)
17:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
19:25 Athens, Larissa (RJ)
20:40 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
21:10 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:40 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:40 Riyadh (SU)
16:25 Athens, Larissa (RJ)
17:40 Dubai (EA)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
21:45 Larissa (CV)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Rome (RJ)
11:05 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:15 Larissa, Athens (RJ)
12:10 London (RJ)
12:45 Paris (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain Doha (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
20:50 Jeddah (RJ)
21:40 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:40 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700/500
Banana 700/700
Banana (Muskamun) 640/640
Beant 650/450
Cabbage 160/100
Carrot 250/160
Cauliflower 210/160
Cucumber (large) 150/80
Cucumber (small) 300/250
Eggplant 320/220
Garlic 180/120
Grapefruit 180/120
Lemon 270/200
Marrow (large) 200/100
Marrow (small) 440/380
Mint 210/180
Onion (dry) 240/180
Onion (green) 240/180
Orange 400/160
Pepper (hot) 380/280
Pepper (sweet) 250/200
Potato 130/90
Spinach 240/180

Officials, bakers expect compromise on flour prices

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Officials and bakery owners expressed hope Wednesday that a compromise solution would be found soon to their dispute over subsidised flour prices and a threatened protest action by the bakers would not be necessary.

Deputy Prime Minister Thaqan Al Hindawi met with representatives of the association Sunday to discuss the problem, which stems from bakers' complaints that the recent increases in prices of government-subsidised flour and bread were not compatible and depressed their profit margin.

The association decided at a crisis meeting Friday to serve notice on the government that they would launch a protest action — by observing closure of bakeries and refusing to take delivery of flour from government warehouses — if their demand for a better profit margin was not addressed in 28 days.

The bakers also sought a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif, Zaid Ben Shaker to present their grievances and Sunday's meeting with Mr. Hindawi came in line with their request.

"We don't think there is any crisis," said an official source. "The issue would be sorted out soon."

A specialised committee is closely studying "all aspects" of the dispute with a view to coming up with a compromise deal, added the source without elaboration.

Abdullah Al Hamawi, president of the Association of Bakery Owners, also expressed optimism that the problem was on its way towards a solution.

"Both sides now understand each other's viewpoints and we hope to have put the problem behind us in the next few days," he told the Jordan Times.

"In any event, the solution would be in the interest of the public," he said, declining to reveal whether any specific figures of extra government support for the bakers were being discussed.

The association has rejected a

government suggestion that the new prices of flour remain unchanged and a processing subsidy of JD 1 per tonne of flour be paid to the bakers.

Bakers argue that a recent Ministry of Supply decision, taken in line with a policy of reducing and gradually eliminating state subsidies, meant that while the price of subsidised flour was raised by 30 per cent, the price of bread was increased by only 12 per cent, and as a result, the profit margin of bakeries was reduced.

"Our profit was JD 9 on every tonne of flour processed into bread," said Abdul Raouf Abu Razza, owner of a downtown Amman bakery. "With the increase in the price of flour, our profit margin is now reduced to JD 4 per tonne."

Mr. Abu Razza argued that the bakers were being deprived of "their right to have a profit margin compatible with all other industrial sectors in Jordan."

"With the inflation rate and higher production costs — power, water, labour etc. — we are finding it difficult to make ends meet," he said.

"In fact, we have been seeking government action to increase our profit margin in the past three years," he added. "The latest disproportionate increase in the prices of flour and bread comes in total contradiction of our interests."

Some officials say that the profit margin of bakeries should not be made on the basis of prices of flour and processed tonnage, but on the total turnover of the establishment.

They point out that the annual consumption of wheat in Jordan has gone up to 600,000 tonnes from 400,000 tonnes and this is translated into higher overall profits for bakeries.

According to Mr. Hamawi, government-run bakeries meet only a small percentage of the market needs, and as such, the state-owned facilities do not "really reflect the realities faced by the bakers."

The association says it has 1,246 registered members. Another 300 bakeries are not members of the association.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker Wednesday received at the Prime Ministry Chairman of the Pakistani Joint Chiefs of Staff General Shamim Ghulam Khan and an accompanying delegation

Arab unity is paramount to development — Sharaf

By Mass Alal Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The new world order took the Arab World by surprise and proved that Arabs are far behind in the development process, Layla Sharaf said Tuesday in a seminar at the Arab Youth Forum.

"We are in the wake of a new century and a new phase, yet the Arabs enter it in a state of weakness and continued backwardness," said Mrs. Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister. The challenges facing the Arabs are paramount, and to be able to overcome them we have to understand the rapidly changing world in order to take our role in it, she asserted.

With advanced technology in communications the world is becoming a global village with easy flow of information and transfer of cultural values world-wide. There is danger, however, in Western culture, which has no historic or human depth, prevailing over Arab culture in this atmosphere of cultural diversity and causing a loss of identity, Senator Sharaf maintained.

The new world order is a unipolar system in which economic power and technology prevail, and knowledge is the true weapon, she said. Thus, Mrs. Sharaf said, there tends to be a unification process and a formation of powerful economic blocs, such as the European Community (EC) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), that allow greater manipulation of resources and manpower.

In such a world there is no place for small and weak states and this is the rationale behind the urgent need for Arab unity, she said.

Arab unity is the prime phase in the process of development, said Mrs. Sharaf, adding that unification leads to economic integration and a furthering of development.

Other concepts that could be applied are democracy and human rights to reinforce development in our economic and cultural values, so as not to keep the Arab masses at the periphery, she stressed.

The major challenge that confronts the Arab World is how to preserve the Arab identity, remarked Mrs. Sharaf.

"We have to deepen our basic

cultural concepts and reinforce confidence in Arab heritage, yet rehabilitate ourselves with new concepts and in line with the twenty-first century."

This should be done through better education and media to help rid ourselves of the "inferiority complex" that draws us backwards, at the same time give us the ability to reject submission to Western values, the senator said. This does not mean embarking on isolationist policies, but it requires reacting with the other cultures only to preserve ours, she pointed out. This also requires changing the mentality of the Arab citizen to help him or her not to resort to the past to solve problems, but to seek future solutions and use long-term planning, said Mrs. Sharaf.

"To reestablish our identity we have to approach the knowledge challenge by developing our own devices and scientific research centres," she said, adding that although "we have difficulties of financing, this could be overcome by unity which produces economic integration and widens the Arabs scope of resources."

Mrs. Sharaf maintained that the role of the youth in the Arab World is a primary role. Yet the youth, she said, can only operate in a democratic context where there is the opportunity to think, work and take initiatives, not simply react and stay at the periphery of the events.

Time has come to end the rhetoric and get involved in serious action to preserve our identity and attend to our security and development, she asserted.

Mrs. Sharaf is a member of the newly-created committee of the Amman Centre on Human Rights and Democracy.

She said there is still no profound vision of the nature of the centre, but expressed her belief that "political parties should have no role in the centre so as not to politicise it and use it as a forum for party competition."

The centre will reinforce democracy in Jordan and make it a model for Arab countries in the future," she said.

Asked about the role of Islam in this new world order, Mrs. Sharaf said Islam is a comprehensive set of doctrines and values with which we encounter the West.

"It should not be identified with fundamentalism because this is a notion introduced to us by the West."

Jordan, Iraq to cooperate in educational systems upgrade

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Iraq Wednesday opened talks in Amman to promote cooperation in education and to benefit from each other's experiences.

At the meeting with the Jordanian team led by Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Thaqan Al Hindawi, Iraqi Education Minister Hikmat Bazzaz said Iraq wants to benefit from Jordan's experience in educational development.

Mr. Bazzaz said his country appreciated all the help Jordan extended to the Iraqi people, adding that about 5,000 Iraqi schools were destroyed in the

U.S.-led raids on Iraq during the Gulf war, in addition to printing presses, books and other educational supplies.

Outlining the Iraqi educational system Mr. Bazzaz said that huge sums of money have been spent on modernisation, but the country still faces difficulties because of the U.N.-imposed sanctions.

Mr. Hindawi told the Iraqi team that Jordan was prepared to do its utmost to cooperate with Iraq in education-related fields.

Following the meeting, the Iraqi delegation visited Al Nuzha Vocational Secondary School.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by the late Syrian artist Alfred Hatzmal at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhais city.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Nourai and Afaf Zarayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of Romanian textile machineries at the Jordanian Textiles Company in Marka.

MUSICAL THEATRE

- ★ Musical entitled "The Music Man" at the American Centre at 5 p.m. (151 min.)

FIELD TRIP

- ★ Field trip organised by the Friends of Archaeology to Erqa Al Amr, in Amman area, on Friday. Departure will be at 9 a.m. from the Anura Hotel parking lot.

Jordan's human rights record improving, but more work is needed, say lawyers

By Sansan Ghosheh

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — Four years into Jordan's democratisation process one can see improvements in the human rights of the Jordanian people. However, some problems still remain to be rectified, Amnesty International Group One Coordinator Asma Khader said there is "visible progress" in human rights in Jordan, especially after the abolishment of Martial Law, the opening up of "intellectual and political pluralism" and the licensing of political parties.

Ms. Khader believes that acts of suppression are no longer as apparent as in the past, and people are able to defend their rights in court. She added that there is an interest in human rights at the "highest level."

Ms. Khader said human rights groups received a positive response from the Ministry of Education to include civic courses in the school curriculum, but thus far no curriculum changes have been made except for a course offered at the university level. United Nations human rights expert and former Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Walded Sadi said "the best guarantee of human rights is democracy."

But Ms. Khader and Dr. Sadi believe that human rights violations still exist in Jordan.

Ms. Khader said these infringements can be seen in the laws. For example, she said the law gives the prosecutor the right to forbid defendants from sitting alone with their lawyers. She added that the high cost of legal services discourages people from defending their rights.

The abuse of connections is also present in the judicial system, said Ms. Khader, who is an attorney. Those people who have relatives or friends in powerful positions may be set free, and those who do not are sentenced for committing les-

ser crimes, she maintained. "There is no sovereignty of the law," she said.

The State Security Court is also under substantial criticism from human rights activists who say it does not guarantee defendants the right to a just trial.

The court is formed by the prime minister to deal with issues the government sees as affecting the security of Jordan.

Dr. Sadi believes this court exists due to a "lingering fear in the country ... that the stability of the country is always under threat."

Ms. Khader and Dr. Sadi believe that since there is no state of emergency in Jordan, there is no need for the State Security Court. Ms. Khader said the duties of the court should be transferred to the civilian courts. She explained that this "emphasises the independence of the judicial system and the sovereignty of the law."

Dr. Sadi said "every country has problems" and "no country is able to meet the requirements of the international norms" that they should abide by. He added that "considerable gaps" in laws were found when Jordan submitted its report to the human rights committee that monitors the application of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. He said Jordan is "not fully aware" of its "commitments in these international instruments." Jordan has ratified laws regarding human rights in the international bodies, yet it does not apply these laws locally, he maintained.

Asma Khader said "we need to develop our laws, in order to include the international laws for human rights." So far, human rights laws are not institutionalised in Jordan, she said.

Therefore, she added, there are no guarantees for the citizens that their rights will

not be violated.

Dr. Sadi said the "Royal Amnesty has substituted for the lack of institutions to tackle these problems." One way to institutionalise these laws, according to Dr. Sadi, is by incorporating the recommendations of the international human rights bodies.

Ms. Khader said the movement to institutionalise these laws is weak and that Parliament should take on this task.

Dr. Sadi hopes that the Centre for the Study of Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World would assume the task of institutionalising human rights laws. The centre was initiated by His Majesty King Hussein, and a committee was appointed Feb. 8 to set its aims and structure.

Asma Khader, a member of that committee, said "there is no clear picture for the centre. In my opinion, its main aim is to form a structure for an Arab movement to defend that values of freedom, democracy and human rights." She believes the centre could play a larger role, such as: documenting events and incidents; training people in human rights issues; and increasing public awareness. Ms. Khader said this centre has the potential of being influential at the Arab and international levels.

Dr. Sadi said the centre is a "grand and noble idea." However, he said "since the scope of the centre would be regional, I don't understand how our people believe that a strictly Jordanian, 20-member commission could speak and handle a subject that touches the entire Arab World ... They should have included people who are versed in the regional dimensions of the problem. People who are fully versed in the international dimensions of the problem."

Ms. Khader said she had the idea of a centre for human rights four years ago, but there

were no financial means to accomplish it. When asked if a centre initiated and funded by the government could be unbiased, Ms. Khader said this is "the responsibility of the members of the committee ... if the members are concerned for the independence of the centre, this will not affect it."

She added that funding has not yet been discussed — it could be from the government, from donations or from other international organisations. However, any money accompanied by conditions should be refused, she asserted.

Despite their enthusiasm about the centre, Ms. Khader and Dr. Sadi agree it is not enough to considerably improve human rights in Jordan. Ms. Khader said there is significant opposition to implementing human rights in Jordan. Many, including parliamentarians, perceive human rights as a secondary concern.

People's lack of knowledge of their own rights hinders the progress in human rights laws and policies, Ms. Khader said. She believes the government and the media — especially television and radio — need to "put a lot more effort into" increasing public awareness.

Only people who know their rights, she said, will respect the rights of others.

Dr. Sadi said the society needs to develop new traditions and amend old ones to incorporate democratic methods of thinking. Civic courses should be introduced starting at the elementary level in order to cultivate "deep roots" in the society.

Human rights have improved significantly in Jordan, threatening its opponents in this country and other parts of the Arab World. It remains to be seen which forces will triumph; those that support civil and political rights for all people or those who are accustomed to and benefit from despotism.



Students Wednesday demonstrate against U.S. policy towards Israel at the University of Jordan (Photo by Youssef Al Aham)

Students protest against Christopher's visit

By Samir Barhoum Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hundreds of students demonstrated at the University of Jordan Wednesday demanding that the Jordanian government withdraw from the Middle East peace talks and urging Arab countries to work on ending the plight of Palestinians expelled to south Lebanon by Israel.

Participants in the demonstration, which was organised by Islamic groups at the university, chanted slogans against U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East. They also criticised "Israel's expansionist policies" and "the American continued support for the Jewish state," stressing that a holy war would liberate Palestine.

"With cannons and guns, we will destroy the Jews, and with a verse from the Holy Koran, we can destroy the Americans," they shouted, following the lead of a masked student using a loudspeaker.

The students, who call themselves the Islamic Trend at the University of Jordan, also voiced their support for the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, and expressed sympathy with the movement's leader Ahmad Yassin, who remains jailed in Israel.

Issuing warnings to Mr. Christopher, they said Israel did not care for peace, and it only understood the language of force. "Christopher, go back home because we will not pay the price of our humiliation. (You should know) the Jews hear nothing but the voice of cannons," they chanted.

In their march which was limited to the university campus, the demonstrators reiterated that Islam was the only means to

liberate Palestine, saying "a weak peace will not be the solution (to the Middle East problem)."

A statement, issued by the demonstration's organisers and distributed to students on campus, said the U.S. has helped Israel in circumventing U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 calling on Israel to repatriate the 396 expellees immediately. This way, the statement said, the U.S. is encouraging Israel to continue expelling Palestinians.

"After destroying Iraq, slaying the Bosnian people, and liquidating the Palestinian cause in the name of international legitimacy, we have nothing to fear now, and the Security Council can do us no further harm," the statement said.


The Hamas movement, continued the statement, is the only qualified power to obstruct "the conspiracy of peace" because of its vision and ability to mobilise the public.

The statement also criticised Arab countries for their failure to help the Palestinian exiles, saying these countries deal with the issue as if it were an internal affair of a friendly state.


"Even worse, this position was expressed more than once by Bassam Abu Sharif (a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official) who said, 'The issue of the expellees is a secondary issue and will not obstruct the peace talks.'"

The statement urged the Jordanian government not to receive Mr. Christopher, and to withdraw from the Arab-Israeli peace talks and mobilise the masses to be able to confront "the expansionist policies of Israel."

It also called on the Arab mass media, namely in Jordan, to give prominence to the expellees issue and not to let it fade away gradually.



**Ministry of Electricity and Energy
The Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Egyptian Electricity Authority**



**Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
Jordan Electricity Authority**

**Egyptian Electricity Authority/Jordan Electricity Authority
Electrical Interconnection Project between Egypt and Jordan**

ADVERTISEMENT

For issue of Tender No. JE 8/90 Telecommunication systems (microwave, optical line terminal units, power line carrier and remote terminal units).

Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority declare that the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan obtained a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for financing the project for interconnection of their electrical networks, and the Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority intend to use part of this loan for financing the supply and installation of the telecommunications system (microwave, optical line terminal units, power line carrier and remote terminal units), for which this advertisement is made for the issuance of tender documents on turn key basis.

Tender No. JE 8/90 includes the following 4 major parts:

- Part (A)** Digital microwave and ancillary equipment and programmable digital multiplex equipment and ancillary equipment.
- Part (B)** Optical line terminal units.
- Part (C)** Power line carrier (PLC), teleprotection, private automatic exchanges, battery chargers, hot line telephone consoles and communication management system.
- Part (D)** Remote Terminal Units (RTUs) to extend Egyptian National Energy Control Centre facilities to the new substations.

More details are available in a tender brief, to be obtained at no cost from JEA Procurement Department. Tenders are to be submitted in duplicate (one original and one copy) to each of Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority and each tender for both the technical and financial offers shall be submitted at the same time. The financial offer should include a bid bond not less than 2 per cent of the total tender price. Submission of Tenders should not be later than 12 o'clock noon Cairo time and its equal time in Amman on April, 17th, 1993.

Tenders can be obtained from the offices of Egyptian Electricity Authority or the offices of Jordan Electricity Authority against a receipt for payment or an acceptable cheque for value of U.S.\$1,000 for Tender No. JE 8/90.

- For Egyptian Electricity Authority to their Account No. 880/90/14 in Egyptian National Bank main branch and to accompany the cheque with a purchase order-original stamped and two copies in the name of the engineer-general manager of the central purchasing in the building of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.
- For Jordan Electricity Authority by cash payment in its headquarters or a certified cheque in the name of Jordan Electricity Authority and submission of purchase order accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment.

The purchase order should clearly include the bidder's name, his local agent and address, telex, fax and telephone number.

In case the tenderer requires the Tender Documents to be sent to him by mail, the express airmail cost will be added.

Both offers (technical & financial) for this tender will be opened at 12 o'clock noon Cairo time and its equal time in Amman on April 17th 1993, in both Cairo and Amman. The tenders should be valid for 150 days from date of opening the tenders.

Tenderers are requested to submit any question in writing or by cable to reach the Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority not later than two weeks before the closing date, response shall be addressed to the specified tenderer's address.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Talk to the PLO

ON THE eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East both the Arab and Palestinian parties to the peace talks appear to be undecided on the future of the talks. Contrary to earlier expectations, there has been only little coordination among the Arab states prior to Mr. Christopher's trip to the area. It is clear by now that each Arab party has its own set of priorities at least concerning the peace process. Israel seems intent on moving faster on the Israeli-Syrian track than on other fronts and the Syrians appear to be willing to go to the talks despite Palestinian protestations. This creates a lot of pressure on the Palestinian side.

The Palestinians appear also to be divided, not only on the fundamentals of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks but also on the issue of the Palestinian expellees, now in their eighth week in southern Lebanon with no immediate prospect for early repatriation. With one Palestinian camp calling the conflict over the expellees a "side issue" and the other making its resolution sine qua non for the participation of the Palestinian side in the next rounds of peace negotiations, the cracks in the Palestinian ranks may give cause for Israel to try to manipulate one stream against the other. All efforts must be exerted, therefore, to make the Palestinian party look and act more united and decisive. There is nothing more harmful to the Palestinian cause than have a rudderless Palestinian leadership, especially on the eve of the 10th round of the bilateral peace talks.

If the Palestinian party opts at the end to boycott the April round of the peace talks, it would not be strictly due to the increasing influence of Hamas and Islamic Jihad — which are on record as opposed to the entire peace process — but rather because the mainstream PLO factions have been effectively denied recognition by Israel and the U.S. even at this late hour.

Without belittling the tug-of-war over the Palestinians who were arbitrarily and wrongly banished from their homeland, this problem could still find resolution in one way or another under the right circumstances. Had the Rabin government moved closer to dealing openly and directly with the recognised PLO leadership, there is no telling how far the two sides could go to reach an operational solution to the current standoff.

The Palestinians can always argue the point that since Israel persists in calling for confidence-building measures, it is high time that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin practised what he has always preached by becoming more yielding to the will and judgement of the international community first by recognising the PLO as a full partner in the quest for peace and, second, by changing his tactics on dealing with the intifada and Palestinian activists.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE UNITED States should realise that only through the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 can the peace process be resumed, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper noted that the coming visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is bound to fail unless the United States takes practical steps to ensure the implementation of that resolution. Indeed, the continued U.S. encouragement of Israel's malpractices and against any U.N. Security Council sanctions for disregarding the world community's resolutions appear to be escalating tension in the region and rendering Israel more and more adamant in its position, the paper said. It said that the Arabs began to realise now that the whole idea behind the Middle East peace process of justifying the U.S.-led aggression on the one hand, and the pretext of implementing the requirements of the international legitimacy, continued the paper. The U.S. administration ought to realise that no Arab party involved in the peace talks with Israel wishes to see Mr. Christopher's mission failing to attain its aspired results, unlike the Israelis who are doing all in their power to abort the mission through their continued rejection of Resolution 799 and through escalation of repressive measures in the occupied Arab lands, the paper added. The Arabs demand that the Security Council and the United States deal with all world issues on equal footing and based on mutual respect, the U.S. secretary of state, said the paper, and it is hoped that these demands will receive favourable replies in Washington.

SULTAN AL Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily voiced his criticism of the Arab Gulf states which are currently massing heavy weapons bought from France, Britain and the United States as a gift to these powers for their part in the Gulf war. These Western countries have originally launched the war on Iraq with the sole purpose of imposing their hegemony on the Gulf area, influencing its regimes to buy more of the Western products and to have control of the oil wealth, said the writer. Indeed, these Western powers are selling the Arab Gulf states obsolete weapons which are useless and ineffective, he added. The massing of such traditional weapons is a manifestation of the continued drain on Arab resources and Arab wealth for no cause at all, he said. To pave the way for the weapons purchased and to encourage the Arabs to buy them in great numbers, the Americans and their allies in Europe have continually created an imaginary enemy, represented in Iraq, which was reported by the Western powers and their media to have bought Soviet-made submarines and other heavy weapons with which to allegedly attack the Gulf states, the writer continued. Thus, it is clear that the Western powers are currently blackmailing the Gulf states by means of this imaginary enemy. The Arab states have been buying obsolete weapons for the past 40 years without being able to use any of them to liberate their usurped Palestinian lands, the writer added.

A wicked about-face from human rights

By Dr. Maan Abu Nowar

IT WAS the United Nations General Assembly that adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Resolution 217A (III) of Dec. 10, 1948, which provided:

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Israel arrested, detained, and exiled 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon 60 days ago, and they are still there. This is but one example of the arbitrary and savage treatment inflicted against the Palestinians in the occupied territories by Israel. The list of criminal actions by the State of Israel against Section I of Part III of the Geneva Civilian Convention of 1949 (Convention IV), condemns Israel for having committed hundreds of the most heinous crimes against humanity.

The deportation of 400 Palestinians from their homeland is not the first criminal action of its kind, and U.N. Resolution 799 is only the last among many adopted by the Security Council. Israeli defiance of U.N. resolutions continues unchallenged and un deterred. The following resolution is but one example in the history of the U.N.'s miserable failures:

U.N. Security Council Resolution 641 (1989) on Deportation, New York 30 August 1989.

The Security Council, Reaffirming its Resolution 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988, 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988, 636 (1989) of 6 July 1989, HAVING been apprised that Israel, the occupying power, has once again, in defiance of those resolutions, deported five Palestinians on 27 August 1989,

EXPRESSING grave con-

cern over the situation in the occupied territories.

RECALLING the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and particular article 47 and 49 thereof,

1. Deplores the continuing deportation by Israel, the occupying power, of Palestinian civilians;

2. Calls upon Israel to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territories of those deported and desist forthwith from deporting any other Palestinian civilians;

3. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the

Palestinian territories, occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and other occupied Arab territories;

4. Decides to keep the situation under review.

The Israeli defiance of Security Council Resolution 799 was supported by the United States, which prompted the Security Council to make the worst and most wicked U-turn in its history against its own resolution and the principles of human rights.

The council contradicted itself by reaffirming what it did not mean to reaffirm. It stated that it "reaffirmed the council's commitment to Resolution 799, demanding the immediate (repeat immediate) return of all the banished Palestinians", while, at the same time and in

the same statement, accepted the Israeli offer to repatriate some of the expellees now, and the rest before the end, not of one week, months, but one year. As if the term "immediate" stretches that far and "all the banished" means some now and the rest later. They want us to have faith in that, the most incomprehensible and unjust statement in the history of the Security Council.

Any free man who saw the Moroccan ambassador to the U.N. reading that cold, cruel and idiotic statement, felt the heartless disregard by the Security Council of the torture, sadness, physical and mental suffering of the 400 Palestinians, whose basic human rights have been denied by

Israel, the United States and their surrogate poodle, the Security Council of the United Nations. Even Dr. Boutros Ghali, the secretary general of the United Nations, found it to be unworthy of the world community, as he intimated to Dr. Edward W. Said in his office a few hours after the statement. It has become obvious that, although the prevailing rules of international law are considered to be the legal system of the present organised world society, the five permanent members of the Security Council, particularly the United States, continue to apply various degrees and standards of subjectivity, political nepotism and selectivity, which are clearly against the spirit, indeed the content of the inter-

national treaty law, not to mention the international law of the Charter of the United Nations.

In their international behaviour, they have reverted back to the dark stage of the system of auto-interpretation of the rules of international law as applied by the unorganised world society under international customary law.

Thus, under the bogus guise of what they call the new world order, the international community became extremely proficient in the use of concepts such as sovereignty, recognition, consent and good faith, or indeed such as those of human rights, national self-determination, self-defence, collective security, etc., with the intention of making them absolute or all-overriding legal rules, only when it suits their national interest, not in defence of justice or human rights.

This kind of international behaviour by the permanent members of the Security Council, particularly the United States, since it found itself to be the only superpower in the world, clearly indicates that nationalism, particularly American nationalism, has transformed international law into a shooting-from-the-big-ideology, the main function of which is to justify their actions which by positive and just international law are totally illegal.

That is why a Palestinian child is killed every day by Israeli soldiers.

That is why the children of Iraq are denied the right to life by the cruel boycott.

That is why the prospects for peace in our time are nil.

That is why it may be the beginning of the end for the hopes of humanity in the success of the United Nations.



King praises security forces

(Continued from page 1)

troops serving in Croatia.

King Hussein said that he realises the immense challenges facing the PSD at a time when the whole region is prone to shocks and jolts, some of which are deeply painful.

He said some people had thought that the return of the great number of expatriates to Jordan would create problems for the country, but, he noted, Jordan was able to adjust to the new situation with great speed.

In his address, King Hussein referred to democracy in Jordan, noting that "the choice of democracy is clear and irreversible and so is our keenness to struggle to attain a balance in the democratic march in a manner that will help us attain our rights and objectives and

protect them in the face of hostile forces."

"Not only do we carry the standards of the Great Arab Revolt, we also transform clear slogans into a reality as we hope to see Jordan serve as the throbbing heart of the whole Arab Nation," he added.

King Hussein listened to a briefing on the PSD's main duties and organisation as well as the crime situation in Jordan, the traffic problems and plans for modernisation.

Present with the King at the briefing was Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other officials, including PSD Director Fadel Ali.

Later the King inspected the newly established control and command network and listened to a briefing on its function which provides quick information and helps deal promptly with crimes.

Arafat due here for talks on peace, Iraq mediation trip

(Continued from page 1)

is willing to talk to the Iraqis soon, President Saddam said last week he hoped for better relations with the Clinton administration. According to diplomats in Amman, Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun is launching a reconciliation effort with the U.S. from New York.

"Nizar Hamdoun is personally behind much of what is going on and what will go on in the next six months," said a Palestinian diplomat from Tunis. "There will be many behind-the-scenes talks and negotiations. In six months the agreement will come. Either it will be a total lifting of sanctions or a gradual one, but the

process is already in motion." Iraq will agree to join in the multilateral talks among the Arab states and Israel, said the Palestinian diplomat. "Saddam Hussein publicly signalled this when he sanctioned continued Palestinian participation in the talks during his talks with Arafat last week," he said.

Prior to the talks between the Palestinian leader and the Iraqi president 10 days ago, Iraq had criticised and opposed the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The change in position signalled Iraq's willingness to join the rest of the Arab World and talk peace with the Israelis, Arab diplomats say.

Christopher arrives in Mideast today

(Continued from page 1)

head of President Hosni Mubarak's political office.

Egypt, involved in intensive contacts on the expellee crisis, believes Israel and the U.S. must offer the Palestinian negotiators more so they can resume peace talks without further weakening their credibility among their people, diplomats said.

An acceptable solution could come if Israel gave a definite timetable for return of all the evictees or found some mechanism to allow their immediate return.

"What we need is a clearly defined process that will lead to an early conclusion of this problem either by having a timetable for the deportees' return or through action like returning them while reviewing their files," said one diplomat.

"If there is no solution, whether we like it or not, we will be discrediting the whole peace process," he added.

In Amman, Palestinian nego-

tiator Saad Erekat said Palestinian leaders will ask Mr. Christopher to resume talks between the United States and the PLO.

"We are going to ask Mr. Christopher to reopen the suspended dialogue with the PLO," Dr. Erekat told Reuters. "They know that talking directly to the PLO would shorten the peace process."

Dr. Erekat and other Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories are due to meet Mr. Christopher on Monday and Tuesday in the territories.

Dr. Erekat and Faisal Al Husseini, chief adviser to the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks, are to meet Mr. Arafat in Amman Thursday when he flies in from talks in Cairo. "We are here to get instructions from the chairman," Dr. Erekat said.

It will be one of the first "legal" meetings for years between Mr. Arafat and Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories. Last month Israel repealed a longstanding ban on contacts with the Tunis-based organisation.

Palestinians moving towards deal

(Continued from page 1)

something is better than nothing and we keep on ending up with less rather than more," said the official calling the all-or-nothing demands of his co-members in the Palestinian leadership as "fair but unrealistic."

Israel has said that it would allow for a gradual return of the expellees and begin with the return of 101. While the United Nations has said it found such a solution acceptable the Palestinians have unanimously rejected this solution.

Faced with increased pressure from Palestinian, Arab and foreign groups to either continue with the peace talks or quit Mr. Arafat has been careful to make maximalist statements in public ruling out any return by the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks without the implementation of 799.

Aimed at appeasing the increasingly frustrated Palestinian masses and curbing criticism by the 10-party coalition of Damascus-based Palestinian opposition groups which have attacked him for his conciliatory stands vis-a-vis Israel, Mr. Arafat has publicly rejected any middle ground solution to the evictee

issue. "Public statements and behind-the-scenes dealings are two very different things as everyone knows," said the Tunis-based PLO diplomat. "We know that a lot of people in this region don't care much about the Palestinians and would like to see the Palestinians sidelined and out of the negotiating game and this can only be avoided if we take what we are offered and run," added the diplomat.

He said the outright refusal of Syria and Lebanon to consider taking a common Arab position vis-a-vis the evictee issue by boycotting the bilateral talks showed that "we are on our own."

Jordan is the only Arab participant to the talks which has not yet publicly committed itself to attending in spite of the evictee crisis.

"We can't expect Jordan to be heroic and forget its individual interests and be punished again like it was during the Iraqi crisis," said the diplomat.

"If the Israelis offer us their solution we will accept. Actually I don't think we can afford to do otherwise despite all our internal opposition we must and will accept and return to the negotiating table," he concluded.

No more price hikes planned, minister tells Lower House

(Continued from page 1)

capita income through maintaining the price stability achieved in 1992 and attaining a six-per cent growth of the gross domestic product.

During its three-hour session Wednesday, the House approved articles 1 to 3 of a draft law on education as amended by its

Judiciary Committee, introducing minor linguistic changes.

The House ended its debate before addressing a controversial proposal by the Education Committee to segregate sexes at government and private schools after grade four. The Education Committee consists of six members of whom five are Islamist deputies.

Peres said Tuesday.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Israel still expects peace agreements to be signed by the end of this year. "We will do whatever possible, in the framework of security needs of Israel, in order to sign a peace treaty this year," Mr. Beilin said.

Mr. Beilin cautiously avoided mentioning any moves to spur Palestinian participation in the talks.

"We will not discuss new ideas with the secretary, but mainly the continuation of the process itself," he said.

However, Dore Gold, an analyst in Israeli-American relations at Tel Aviv University, said the Americans would likely insist on a further concession.

"The Americans believe in the need to give something to the Palestinians to bring them in," Mr. Gold said. "It could be a change in the status of East Jerusalem or outside Palestinians."

Mr. Beilin emphasised the government's readiness for "territorial compromise."

"We are committed to U.N. resolution 242 and 338," Mr.

No easy way to democracy — Prince

(Continued from page 1)

added.

The Crown Prince also stressed that in the global context, "our economic inter-dependence has now become undisputed; recognition of our political inter-dependence must follow." In referring to the six million European Muslims, he said that it is integration, rather than assimilation, which is the desirable path.

Europe is now witnessing the growth of extremist politics, which stands to exploit the political economy of despair, he added. The link between democratisation and development is clear. In Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and the

Middle East alike, inequities will always threaten stability. The disparities between Israel and its neighbours are clear, and are the source of much of the region's conflict and instability. The Crown Prince stressed that "we must steer away from the bilateralism that has characterised dealings in the region, and move towards regionalism."

The Crown Prince's address to the French institute came as part of a short visit to the capital of France. During the visit, he also met with a distinguished group of academics and opinion makers at the Centre for International Study and Research. The Crown Prince also conducted several press interviews, including Radio Jordan and Radio Monte Carlo.

U.S. envoys praises democratisation

(Continued from page 1)

bottom up." Building from the bottom up requires patient, sustained effort to create the institutions upon which democracy depends: political parties, free media, laws that protect property and individual rights, an impartial judiciary, labour unions, and voluntary associations. As you move forward in all these areas, you will have our strong support.

"This is our hope for you: a democracy which provides the people of Jordan with a vision of a future in which the worth of the individual will be upheld and respected."

"We recognise that democratically expressed opinion in Jordan will not always agree with our own. You may not like what we do and tell us so. Our interests and perceptions may differ. But our country will never ignore or disregard policies and opinions which arise from free expression and universal political participation. On the contrary, the policies

of democratic nations will always carry more weight in the community of nations because they represent not the caprice of dictators but the voice of the people."

"Does our support for your democratisation mean we hope you will adopt a system identical to ours? The answer is no. We do take pride in our democratic system. But it is not the intention of the United States to impose its model of government abroad. As Assistant Secretary of State (Edward) Djerejian noted last June, each country must work out, in accordance with its own traditions, history, and particular circumstances, how and at what pace to broaden political participation."

"In closing, may I again express the support of my government for your democratising efforts, and our respect for His Majesty's vision in carrying those efforts forward."

"For years publics abroad have thought of only one democracy in the Middle East. It is time to take another look."

complaint about the sums it receives. Despite President Clinton's insistence that cross-the-board sacrifices are needed to reinvigorate the economy, Mr. Peres said Tuesday the \$3 billion in aid Israel receives each year should remain intact.

He asserted that U.S. aid to Israel pales beside the \$90 billion the United States spends for the defence of Europe and Japan, even though Israel faces a far greater "security" threat and more serious economic problems.

Mr. Peres said that once the Middle East becomes as peaceful as Europe, "I assure you that we shall give up the foreign aid."

He also said the United States, in considering aid to Israel, should take into account that Israel uses much of its aid to buy American weaponry.

He noted that Israel spends 15 per cent of its gross national product on defence compared with four per cent for Europe and one per cent for Japan. At the same time, Israel also suffers from an Arab economic boycott, at a cost of \$2 billion to \$3 billion annually.

هكذا من الأمل

Jordan scores a notch in world peacekeeping

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

MAN — Since stepping international peacekeeping operations by sending a force of four officers to

in 1988, Jordan now over 1,100 members of its military forces stationed in its hotspots from former Yugoslavia to Cambodia.

The Kingdom has also prepared a well-trained unit of officers and soldiers ready to go for Somalia to join the African force in the region of Africa country as the green light is given by the United Nations.

The Jordanian presence on the U.N. "Blue Beret" from the East to the West is not only a testament to the Kingdom's neutrality in conflict but is also a matter of pride for the Kingdom's military establishment, said a spokesman for the General Command of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

In the past decades, the Jordanian presence in the Balkan countries, Africa, Asia, and a few other countries mostly contributed to peacekeeping operations.

Subsequently, the strength of Jordanian observers in Angola was raised to 15, but nine of them were recalled home in line with a U.N. move to reduce the strength of the U.N. force there.

"We have not sent substitutes for the nine, pending a clear picture of what is happening in Angola and what the U.N. intends to do next," said the spokesman.

The Jordanian presence in Angola and Cambodia is limited to unarmed truce observers along with representatives of other countries.

But in the former Yugoslavia, the 900-strong Jordanian unit posted in Croatia has contributed significantly to maintaining security for the local population and U.N. personnel, said the spokesman.

The Jordanian unit is part of a four-country force of around 4,000 soldiers stationed in the town of Novoska east of the Croatian capital of Zagreb near the border with Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Jordanians are deployed along the main highway and key roads to ensure the smooth flow of people and humanitarian supplies, as well as U.N. personnel, the spokesman said.

"The unit, while remaining strictly neutral in the conflict, maintains excellent relations with all sides to the conflict and has managed to keep a relatively calm and secure atmosphere," he said.

According to the spokesman, the suggestion by General Satish Nambiar of India, head of the UNPROFOR, that the Jordanian unit take overall command of the four-country force in the region was an acknowledgement and appreciation of the Jordanian performance among the "Blue Berets."

The other countries in the U.N. force deployed in that region are Argentina, Nepal and Canada, each contributing roughly equal number of soldiers.

The present commander of the Jordanian unit, which includes seven doctors and personnel from various technical branches of the Armed Forces, holds the rank of colonel. Another Jordanian colonel who is among the five-member observer unit is the deputy chief of the overall truce supervising mission in former Yugoslavia.

A Jordanian brigadier-general would be assigned soon to take over as commander of the regional U.N. force in Novoska in line with Gen. Nambiar's recommendation, the spokesman said.

The PSD contingent of the force in former Yugoslavia performs regular police duties and helps train and advise local units.

Humanitarian services

In addition to ensuring the safe passage of refugees fleeing battle zones in the area and protecting U.N. officials and relief convoys moving through their sector of operations, the Jordanians

also offer humanitarian services, such as medical care and food within the limitations imposed on them under the circumstances, the spokesman added.

"We have established an excellent equilibrium in relations with the local residents and we haven't had to face any complaint in this regard," he said.

The fact that many of the Jordanians serving in the unit are graduates of Eastern European universities and are fluent in some of the local languages has helped the force to facilitate its mission.

"It is part of our policy to select officers and soldiers who speak the local language while assigning units to international operations," the spokesman said. English, one of the U.N. languages, is a must in all cases.

More significantly, every member of the unit goes through an intensive familiarisation course in various aspects of life in the region to which he is assigned, the spokesman said.

"We brief them closely on the essential elements of social life and behaviour of the people of the region, the geographic features of the terrain and the overall role of the U.N. force, in addition to the political aspects of the conflict," he said.

Special attention is also given in the briefings to the limitations of the U.N. mandate for the force.

For instance, the spokesman said, the unit in Croatia is on a defensive posture in its mission protecting local populace, relief supplies and U.N. personnel.

"They can and will defend themselves when under threat, but will not adopt an offensive position in line with the U.N. mandate," he said, adding that such disciplined behaviour is instilled in each and every soldier before his departure.

— And nine PSD officers and 75 Armed Forces personnel to the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The spokesman said a 900-strong force had been trained and prepared and was ready to leave for Somalia. The unit was visited by His Majesty King Hussein this week.

"Contacts between Jordan and the United Nations are continuing and we are waiting for orders to dispatch the unit to Somalia," said the spokesman. The present five-member Jordanian unit with UNOSOM is part of 50-strong, 10-country observer team which monitors a ceasefire agreed last year between the two main Somali warlords in Mogadishu.

The spokesman, who could not be named under standing Armed Forces regulations, noted that Jordan's first involvement in international military operations under the U.N. flag came when it sent four officers to join the U.N. truce observer team in Angola in 1988 following what then appeared to be an end to decades of civil war there.

Subsequently, the strength of Jordanian observers in Angola was raised to 15, but nine of them were recalled home in line with a U.N. move to reduce the strength of the U.N. force there.

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also offer humanitarian services, such as medical care and food within the limitations imposed on them under the circumstances, the spokesman added.

"We have established an excellent equilibrium in relations with the local residents and we haven't had to face any complaint in this regard," he said.

The fact that many of the Jordanians serving in the unit are graduates of Eastern European universities and are fluent in some of the local languages has helped the force to facilitate its mission.

"It is part of our policy to select officers and soldiers who speak the local language while assigning units to international operations," the spokesman said. English, one of the U.N. languages, is a must in all cases.

More significantly, every member of the unit goes through an intensive familiarisation course in various aspects of life in the region to which he is assigned, the spokesman said.

"We brief them closely on the essential elements of social life and behaviour of the people of the region, the geographic features of the terrain and the overall role of the U.N. force, in addition to the political aspects of the conflict," he said.

Special attention is also given in the briefings to the limitations of the U.N. mandate for the force.

For instance, the spokesman said, the unit in Croatia is on a defensive posture in its mission protecting local populace, relief supplies and U.N. personnel.

"They can and will defend themselves when under threat, but will not adopt an offensive position in line with the U.N. mandate," he said, adding that such disciplined behaviour is instilled in each and every soldier before his departure.

"Until now Jordan has not suffered a single casualty — not even an injury — among

with Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Jordanians are deployed along the main highway and key roads to ensure the smooth flow of people and humanitarian supplies, as well as U.N. personnel, the spokesman said.

"The unit, while remaining strictly neutral in the conflict, maintains excellent relations with all sides to the conflict and has managed to keep a relatively calm and secure atmosphere," he said.

According to the spokesman, the suggestion by General Satish Nambiar of India, head of the UNPROFOR, that the Jordanian unit take overall command of the four-country force in the region was an acknowledgement and appreciation of the Jordanian performance among the "Blue Berets."

The other countries in the U.N. force deployed in that region are Argentina, Nepal and Canada, each contributing roughly equal number of soldiers.

The present commander of the Jordanian unit, which includes seven doctors and personnel from various technical branches of the Armed Forces, holds the rank of colonel. Another Jordanian colonel who is among the five-member observer unit is the deputy chief of the overall truce supervising mission in former Yugoslavia.

A Jordanian brigadier-general would be assigned soon to take over as commander of the regional U.N. force in Novoska in line with Gen. Nambiar's recommendation, the spokesman said.

The PSD contingent of the force in former Yugoslavia performs regular police duties and helps train and advise local units.

Humanitarian services

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His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, visits the Jordanian unit of the multinational peacekeeping force in Croatia (Photo courtesy: GHQ)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visits the Jordanian unit of the multinational peacekeeping force in Croatia (Photo courtesy: GHQ)

its forces which contribute to keeping international peace," said the spokesman.

The task of observer units is to monitor the observance of ceasefires and report violations to the U.N. General Secretariat, which in turn will draw up reports as warranted to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

According to experts familiar with the U.N. system, the reports of truce observers are treated in strict confidence and access to the documents is confined to top-level U.N. officials.

"The idea is to avoid conflict and tension between the observers and local forces," said an expert.

Jordan sent its first unit of 900 officers and soldiers to Croatia in May last year. It was replaced in November with an entirely new unit and the present contingent would be recalled home in May to be substituted by another new unit.

Another five-man observer unit left for Macedonia three weeks ago.

Truce observers are usually unarmed except in some cases where they carry small arms to protect themselves if they are threatened.

Such arms are an inevitable part of any operation in Somalia, where freelance bandits are on the loose despite the presence of the American-led multinational force which is supervising the distribution of humanitarian supplies to the starving millions there.

King Hussein visited the contingent in Croatia in September and became the second head of state to visit his country's peacekeepers in the chaotic former Yugoslavia after French President Francois Mitterrand. Shortly thereafter His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also visited with the force.

The soldiers wear Jordanian uniforms but a blue cap and scarf identify them as U.N. forces. Each carries a personal identification badge in addition to the national flag of Jordan stitched on the upper sleeve.

A Jordanian flag is also flown side by side with the blue U.N. flag at the posts the Kingdom's soldiers are stationed; the vehicles they use are also authorised to fly the national flag along with that of the U.N.

In principle, the United Nations is supposed to pay the salaries of the forces, but Jordan continues to pay its 900-strong unit in Croatia pending a firm U.N. arrangement. Jordanian units elsewhere are being paid directly by the U.N. administrative system.

Jordanian soldiers aboard an armoured personnel carrier at a checkpoint in Croatia (Photo courtesy: GHQ)

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Diary

BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE: As the date for the next parliamentary elections nears, members of the Lower House are reorganising their social schedule to fit in with what the public would expect of them. Obviously they believe that paramount to the public at large is an image of their representatives which is free from Western influence, especially the American one. This could partly explain the absence of some 75 deputies from a reception hosted by U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison in honour of visiting Republican senators Arlen Specter, Hank Brown and James Jeffords. Last week all 80 deputies were invited to meet the American visitors but, according to sources, only five showed up. Good politics for the honourable gentlemen? Perhaps. But it seems it was not much of a political stunt since there was not one word mentioned about the "boycott" in the press, much less television and radio. But then again perhaps the U.S. embassy deserved this lack of response from the people's representatives after the way it handled a protest visit by an Amnesty International delegation to the compound. The protesting group went to the embassy to give the ambassador a letter protesting the expulsion by Israel of over 400 Palestinians and, although the delegation was allowed in, the media were kept away from the embassy in freezing temperatures and banned from filming the group while coming in or leaving. "Security" reasons were cited for the ban but it is more likely the embassy also has a problem with the image it wants to portray to television viewers at large.

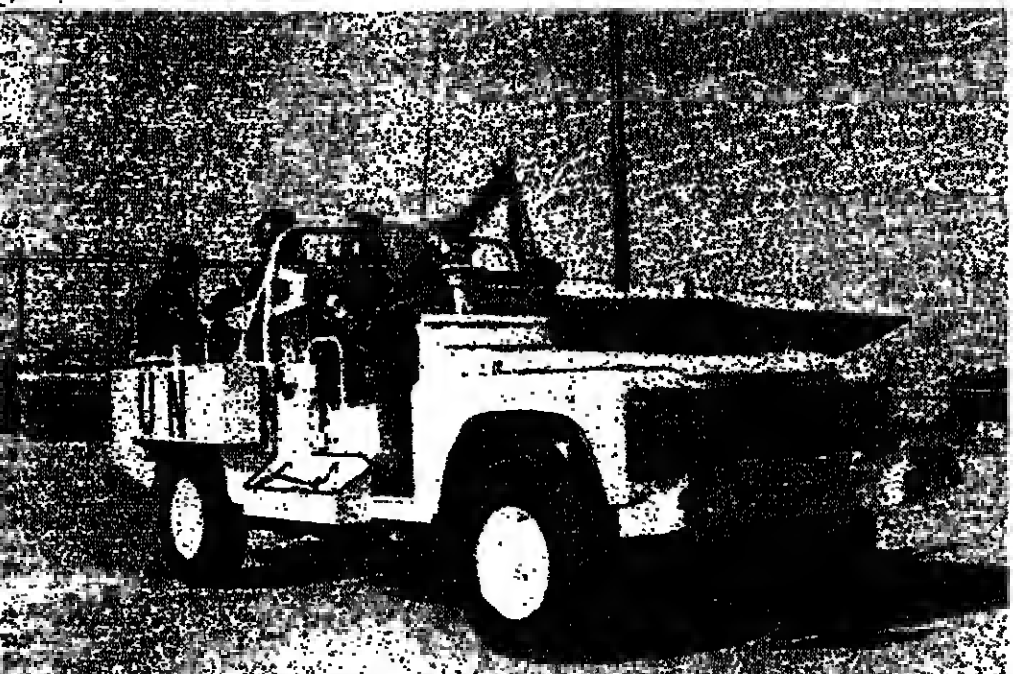
EXPLOSIVE LABOUR POLICIES: The minister of labour, Abdul Karim Kabariti, was unfairly treated by the Lower House of Parliament, of which he is a member, over the delay in drafting a new labour law. Although Mr. Kabariti is traditionally the target of Muslim Brotherhood deputies for his outspoken criticism of their policies, this time nevertheless it was leftist Bassam Haddadin who sought to get him. Deputy Haddadin, who is a member of the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP), questioned the minister over the delay in drafting the law using all kinds of socialist terms including the ever present "yansuf" or blow up. The delay in changing the old law, which according to Mr. Haddadin is heavily tilted in favour of the employers, "will blow up" the rights of labourers in Jordan. Mr. Kabariti argued back on legal grounds, but the ever witty and omnipresent Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh took the chance to stealthily divert the conversation to Mr. Haddadin's old-school terminology and noted that political parties, including the controversial JPDP, which is rumoured to be an offshoot of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, were licensed on the grounds that their methods are peaceful. There was no need for "explosive" language or otherwise, he pointed out to Haddadin, to a huge and noisy laughter by the House.

"JUSTICE" FOR ALL: A boy of 16 was whipped to death by his father over "suspicion" that the boy stole a packet of cigarettes from the family's house. According to reports in local newspapers "the father, upon learning of the theft, became very angry, woke the boy up and tied his hands and feet and then hung him from the door and kept whipping him until his head bled and then left him there to die." This story received only one commentary from a sole columnist in Al Dustour newspaper who wished the young boy peace in heaven and urged people who cannot be parents to "reign" from that position. This ugly picture evokes memories of another father who chained his son to his car and dragged him along the streets of Al Wihdat camp because he failed a regular math test, and yet another who doused his son with fuel and burned him because he failed in his Tawjihl exams. These images of our so-called patriarchal society are not necessarily isolated but largely ignored by the government, by the politicians and by the people. This story was even more aggravating as it was compared, in our minds, with another story which was published on the same day, in the same newspaper in the "police files" column. According to the police report, a judge of the higher criminal court commuted the charge of a 24-year-old MAN who murdered his sister from a "crime" to a "felony" thereby decreasing his sentence to six months imprisonment. The honourable judge considered that the murderer killed his sister "under extreme anger" over what the woman had done and which, according to the court, placed the murderer and his family "in an unenviable position." The sad part is that the woman had already been married to her boyfriend who was imprisoned for nine months before the "marriage" in payment for his and her "misdemeanor" but the brother remained angry for all that time and killed her despite pleas from his father to leave her alone. The second story may tell us what to expect from our sense of justice when "extreme" anger is concerned whether it is over a packet of cigarettes or "family honour." And to the mother, in the first story, and the dead woman, in the second, our society seems to be saying "it is alright...the MEN can get angry."

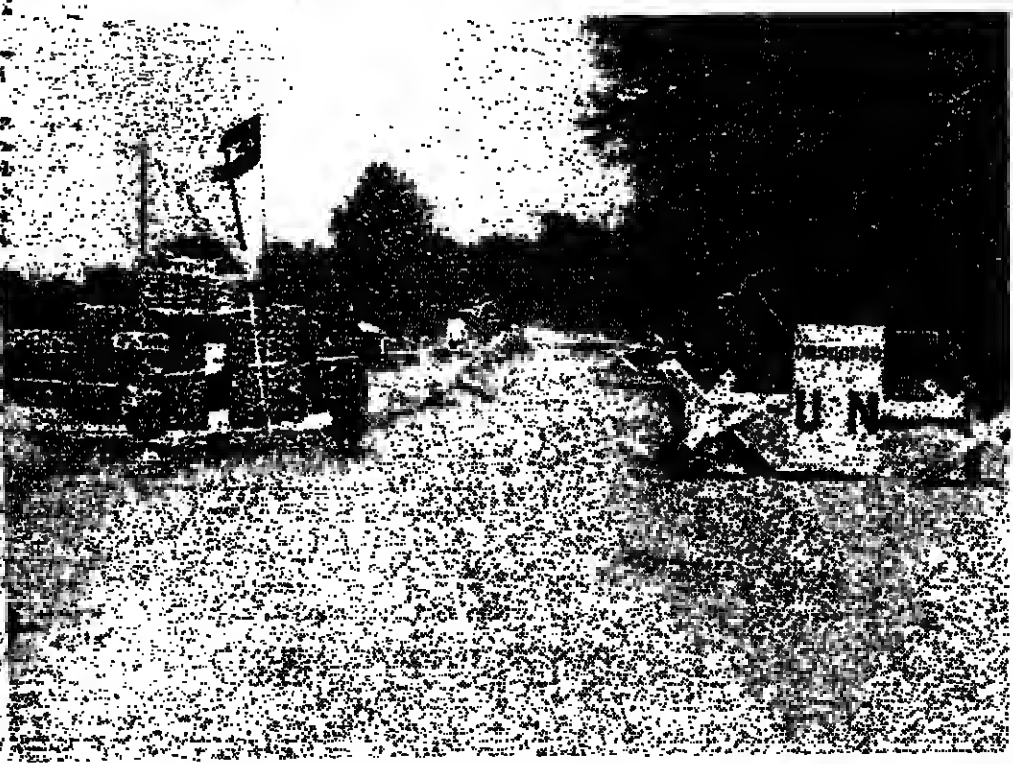
FREEDOM OF THE "PRESS": While Jordanian journalists are clamouring for their freedoms and rights under the draft law on press and publications, a noted columnist of an Arabic-language daily has deprived himself of his freedom to move around by allegedly indulging in homosexuality. The columnist was accused by a minor of forcing him to engage in sex last week. The affair, according to some sources, went on as follows: The man promised the boy a certain financial reward but paid only part of it for his "services", which prompted the boy to lodge a complaint with the police. The journalist was immediately detained and then released on bail. The bail lasted for less than 24 hours during which the columnist turned up at his desk at the newspaper with a business-as-usual attitude. He was rearrested after the prosecutor-general revoked the bail, which was offered by the mother of the accused. The ironic part of the story is that the boy, who conducted the negotiations for the deal, went scot-free because he was a minor. Likewise, the columnist's charge was rape not because he forced the boy to have sex but because the boy was a minor even though he is said to have a long record of levelling accusations of a similar nature against others.

OBJECTIVE REPORTING: The Jordan Press Association (JPA) has been locking horns with a large number of non-JPA journalists who have been lobbying against being forced to become members of the association. The non-JPA members have repeatedly explained that they are against being used as a tool to improve the status of the association when it has failed to meet the minimum standards of professionalism and credibility. JPA members, however, have been asking both houses of Parliament to allow them to "regulate" the trade and ethics of journalism in Jordan. Over the past few months this issue has repeatedly been reported by local newspapers including last week when the Senate appeared closer to understanding the problem of non-JPA members. A reporter on the case, who has friends in both camps, was approached by a prominent JPA member and directly asked to tilt his reporting in favour of the association's argument. That story may yet stand as an example of the ethics that the association perhaps wanted to export to those who have survived outside its ranks so far.

Nerineen Murad



Jordanian peacekeepers aboard a United Nations vehicle in Croatia (Photo courtesy: GHQ)



Jordanian-manned U.N. checkpoint in Croatia (Photo courtesy: GHQ)

The impossible comparison

By Jean-Claude Elias

You have been planning this for quite a while now. A good friend has given you the perfect consultancy by writing down all the characteristics that you have to look for in order to acquire a computer which would be as powerful and performing as his. The personal computer (PC) has even recently replaced the trip to Hawaii or the new Mercedes car in your wildest dreams. You have also been carefully comparing the prices and the quality of the services PC retailers can offer you. In short, you have done a perfect study.

Your choice is finally done. You've selected a machine identical to your friend's in terms of technical specifications, though from another manufacturer, and today is the day your PC is being delivered to your desk. But you get the shock of your life! After having correctly installed and connected all units together, monitor, keyboard, mouse, etc., you discover that the computer doesn't work as fast as the one your friend has.

What happened? What went wrong? Thinking you missed something in the "specifications list", you hastily review everything: Processor type, clock rate, memory size, disk access time, math co-processor, disk controller, display adaptor, cache memory and the rest, but find no discrepancy in the check-list. You call the PC dealer suspecting they have cheated on you, but they assure you that they delivered what you ordered and are ready to prove it.

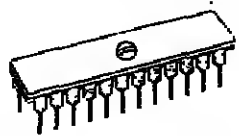
You grab the phone, the fax, take a car, a cab or the next available Lear Jet and summon your friend to give you an explanation good enough to wipe out the disappointment on your face. "Oh, don't you worry, it must be some silly setting in the operating system, somewhere in the software programmes. I'll fix it" says your expert-friend in a soothing voice.

Back to your PC you both work for a few minutes making adjustments to the programmes in order to have a system exactly identical to the computer you took as a model, but alas, it is still not as fast as it should be. Then and only then, you decide to consult a real expert, a professional.

There are three reasons why two PCs with apparently the same characteristics can perform differently. First, not all the specifications are usually taken into consideration or even specified by the manufacturer. Second, some of them are impossible to describe or measure and finally the software greatly affects the computer performance.

1. PC users tend to compare the machines performance through a simplified set of characteristics like the above mentioned ones for instance: Memory, clock rate and so on. While these give a good idea of the power of a certain computer, they are far from being enough to give a

chip talk



complete picture of it.

To clearly and accurately express the performance of a PC, a much longer list of specifications needs to be given. Every detail counts. Like the type of the "bus." The PC bus is the section of the main board — the mother board — where small electronic boards named controllers are plugged. These boards connect to the system's different units such as the disk and the screen. Different types of "buses" exist: ISA, EISA, Local BUS, PS/2 to name only a few.

Another neglected characteristic is the memory chips access time, expressed in nanoseconds. Chips with 70ns are obviously faster than ones with 80ns. The quality of the disks controllers is also an important factor, some are based on 8-bit technology while others on 16.

2. Some aspects of the PC design and manufacturing are impossible or very difficult to describe to the layman, at least not in commercial terms. For instance the length and quality of the internal cables, or the way some chips or components are soldered mounted on the mother and the controller boards. With today's modern machines working at clock rates as high as 66 MHz-66 million times per second — the slightest difference in cabling, soldering or manufacturing affects the PC's overall performance and speed.

3. The operating system and software should not be forgotten. There is more than one way to run a given programme. Professionals and experienced users know that software needs to be correctly installed on the PC hard disk and optimised through special settings, otherwise it would either run in a "diminished" form or even not at all.

In conclusion, an accurate comparison of the performance of two computers is not an operation one does on paper. It requires practical testing. The best way to do it is to run special test programmes that can evaluate the different components of the machines and produces easily understandable figures. On the other hand users do not need to be obsessed or disappointed by minor differences between various hardware. A middle-of-the-road 386 PC is now many times faster than any personal computer we used to have only six or seven years ago.

I will always love you

By E. Yaghi

More than anything else, young Amira loved her country whether right or wrong, through good times and bad. During the Gulf war, she bravely walked to work every day amidst the rubble, torn buildings and shattered lives of her countrymen to carry out her duties at the world renowned Al Rasheed Hotel. Having escaped death during the ferocious allied bombing of the Gulf war, she was inclined to be cheerful about the state of her life. A few months ago she remarked to her younger sister Reema as they sat on some wicker chairs in their porch contemplating the future, "I have so much hope for our country and am so proud of our people! Look how we've rebuilt our city, buildings, factories, bridges and even got back on track ourselves. If only we weren't punished by the U.N. sanctions!"

"Yes," agreed her younger sister Reema, "the sanctions are as destructive as the war. Our babies are still dying because there are hardly any vaccines or anti-biotics, some children have cancer due to the radiation from the exploding bombs and so many are dreadfully malnourished! Wars are such a senseless waste of lives. So many people die needlessly! Could you please pass the tea?"

Amira handed her the silver-plated teapot and watched her sister pour the steaming tawny liquid into a porcelain cup. It was nice to have a chance to talk with her sister on her day off. The two were attached to each other and when possible, enjoyed talking together. She looked up at the gathering clouds. "Looks like rain. The sky is black. We could use more water."

Reema dawdled with her cup and kept stirring it as if she were contemplating a nuclear theory. After a few minutes she asked: "Do you think we'll ever get married?"

A deep laugh rolled up her throat and then Amira replied: "Who wants to get married for God's sake? Not now. Someday perhaps. I'd like to have a dozen kids when I do, but for the present, I'm married to my country and that's enough for me!"

She looked seriously at Reema who sulked and said, "I don't even think children should be born. They are either killed before they know life or after they grow up. What's the use? I couldn't bear to lose my son. We've lost enough already when our two brothers died and now there's no one to take care of mom and dad but you and I."

Feeling motherly, Amira hugged her sister and then said: "You worry too much. Let the future take care of itself. We'll provide for our parents until God decides otherwise. Right now, there is so much to live for!"

Strong winds forced the two sisters to run inside their cottage and soon the dust turned to thick brown mud as torrents of rain poured down on the recuperating city. The next day, Amira set off to work as usual, kissing her elderly parents who sat in the living room huddled near an old heater. "Good-bye. Take care now, mom, dad. Don't wait for me. I might be delayed. There's a lot of work I have to catch up on at the hotel. See you later."

As she walked to work, the air smelled clean and fresh and drops of rainwater still clung to those leaves that refused to join their comrades already fallen on the ground. She paused for a minute studying them and announced: "Human beings are as leaves. Each one has a turn to fall and die." She then hurried on her way.

She had many friends at the hotel and was a favourite of foreign correspondents because she tried not to let her personal feelings interfere with performing her job competently and smoothly. She always knew the right words to say to everyone she dealt with. Yes, the war was destructive. The coalition bombing was a punishment which far exceeded the occupation of Kuwait, but these were facts of life and Amira felt her duty went beyond the borders of political prejudices so she would serve all who entered the guided doors of Al Rasheed as equals, for she thought of her job as one of unofficial ambassador and

went to great lengths to make a good impression on all, regardless of their nationality.

"But why," she was frequently asked, "do you work so hard and why are you so nice to the foreign correspondents? They don't deserve your kindness. Have you ever read some of the terrible things they've said about us?"

In defence, she could only shake her head and answer: "Who am I to judge who deserves what? Positive actions help create a better atmosphere. Maybe when outsiders get to know us as we really are, then they will present a better picture of us to their own people back home. Being discourteous is a discredit to me, the hotel and yes, to my country!"

Hence, she performed her duties with a sunny face, polite grace and a winning manner. On her days off, journalists would demand, "Where's Amira! We never have any complaints when she's around!"

The time was January, nearly two years after the Gulf war. The situation in Iraq grew tense once more. In the crowded room they shared together, Reema spoke in an anguished low voice to her sister, "I thought we finished with war and hate once and for all! why can't the Americans leave us alone? Haven't we suffered enough, or do they want to kill the rest of us? This is insanity. I can't stand it anymore!"

Amira glared sharply at her sister. "You must be brave and don't go to pieces. Think of our parents. We have to comfort them, not expect them to baby us after all they've gone through. If we could last the days of the war then we must not now give up faith! We have to go on with our lives as always until it is our turn to quit living. Until that moment comes, let's not die a thousand deaths but live one great life to its capacity!"

Their eyes met. The older one showed a hint of fear but there sparkled a gleam of hope. "Oh, dear sister. You are so much stronger and braver than me. If only I had your courage!" Reema whispered.

On Jan. 17, Amira said good-bye as usual to her parents. She patted her father on his head and kissed her mother saying as she went out the door, "don't worry if I'm late. I have the evening shift tonight. If you hear any sirens, take care of yourselves. If you need me for anything, send Reema and I'll come at once!"

Later, when the American missile struck the hotel, it seemed as if all hell broke loose. It had been a busy night because the members of the Islamic conference were there as well as a group of foreign journalists. But at that moment of impact, glass broke into a million pieces and marble columns folded as if they were made of cardboard. Not knowing what hit her, Amira found herself buried beneath some furniture and was bleeding profusely. A strange pain gripped her as she floated in and out of her body from consciousness to unconsciousness. She felt some people carry her, cover her with blankets, place her on a stretcher and shove her into an ambulance. Above, anti-aircraft fire lit up the night like neon lights. The ambulance sirens screamed through the streets of Baghdad and when the car arrived at the hospital, Amira was rushed to the emergency room. Later she heard someone weeping and opened her eyes and saw her sister sitting next to her holding a hand that seemed aloof from her body. "What's wrong? Why are you carrying on like this? Is it that bad?"

Reema dabbed at her eyes. "I'm afraid so."

"I'm very cold. Please cover me with some more blankets."

Her sister did and then Amira said: "That's better. But please don't cry! Remember my philosophy that each one has a turn to die? Now it's mine. I've been with you every step of the way and I will always love you and my country! Now you need more than I can give you. You will find that within yourself. Take care of mom and dad for me and send them my love too and final good-bye."

"Amira, please don't leave me!"

Then suddenly the lights went out.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- In Amsterdam, more than one-third of the population owns bicycles.
- There are more than one thousand types of cancer.
- The largest blue whale ever caught weighed 145 tonnes.
- John Milton used eight thousand different words in his poem "Paradise Lost".
- A watermelon is 92 per cent water.
- The library of Thomas Jefferson consisted of ten thousand volumes.
- More than three million Americans have hernias.
- The age of a tree can be determined by counting the concentric rings of its cross-section.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

Sight-seeing

- How can one go to Al Azraq?
Keef el-wahid yerooh el-Azraq.
- Where can I rent a car? A bicycle? A rowboat? A sailboat?
Fain asta'ir sayyara? Baskaley? Markib? Markib shera'it?
- I want a licensed guide who speaks English.
Ayez morshid yet'kallam Engleezi.
- What is the charge per day?
Adfa' kam fit-youn?
- What is the charge for a trip to Jarash? The Dead Sea? The mountains? The valley?
Adfa' kam le-rih'la ala Jarash? Al Bahar El May'yet? Al Jibaf? Al wadi?
- Call for me tomorrow at the hotel at 8 a.m.
Ta'al indi bokra fit-fondok al-sa'a tamaan sabahan.
- I'm interested in paintings.
Hawayti, al-rasm.
- ★ Engravings
Al Naksh.
- ★ Sculpture
Al Naht.
- ★ Photography
Al tasweer.
- ★ Horse-riding
Rukooob al khail.
- ★ Hunting
El sayd.
- ★ I should like to see the park.
Ana ohib ashool el-hadika.
- ★ The royal palaces
El qusoor el Malekiya.
- ★ Ma'in baths
Hammamat M'ain.
- ★ Jarash Festival
Mahrajan Jarash.
- ★ The library
El maktaba.
- ★ The youth centre
Markaz al shabab.
- When does the museum open/close?
Emta yeffah (yessakir) el-mat'haf?
- What is the price of admission?
Kam s'ir al-dakhool?

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

BLACKSMITH: Your current projects will turn out better than you anticipated if you saw a blacksmith in your dream.

- DAGGER: If you saw a dagger in your dream, you can expect news from a distance. To carry a dagger is a warning to be more circumspect in your actions or you might become involved in an unpleasant situation; to see others with daggers or someone stabbed by a dagger signifies triumph over hostility.
- ADULTERY: If you commit it, be on guard against giving your confidence to new friends, if you resisted it, you will have some disappointing setbacks, but they will be temporary.
- CIRCUS: If you dream you are involved with children at a circus or taking them to one, it is a sign of exceptional luck in financial matters; otherwise, it is a warning to be more careful of the impression you make on others.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is:
 - a) Fifth Column
 - b) Fourth Estate
 - c) Plutocracy and Autocracy
2. What is the male for mare?
3. What is a libretto?
4. Which sport was once called "poona"?

PUZZLES

- (1) Twelve animals' names are hidden here, the letters in three squares making each name. Start in a corner square. Do not take pencil off the paper. If done correctly, you will pass through every square once, tracing en route the twelve names. No diagonal moves are allowed.

D	O	N	B	O	E	Y	N	K	M	O
N	K	E	Y	B	A	Z	M	E	L	
A	L	L	R	A	E	B	C	A	O	N
M	A	T	I	G	R	S	E	I	S	
B	B	I	T	E	R	H	O	E	L	B
R	A	B	E	A	R	A	N	D		

- (2) There are three numbers which, added together, make the same total as when multiplied together. What are they?



A new way to promote Amman

By Ica Wabbah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A new concept of advertising Jordan's capital city, quite different from the traditional one, has taken shape in an eye-catching poster with Amman's landmarks drawn in the manner of a naive painting.

The colourful, glossy poster, aptly named "Amman Panorama," is an instructive, albeit highly commercialised, guide to foreigners and locals alike. It gives one the chance to discover the all too familiar buildings of Amman although the location is relative as the poster does not follow the scale of a map.

Meant to be a means for promoting tourism, the Amman Panorama was the brainchild of the Badri brothers who own and run the International Media Services Company (IMS).

"There is a shortage of tourism promotion material, like maps, posters, booklets; so, with our poster we could project an image of Amman," said Raed Badri who confessed to frustrated attempts to depict his hometown when a student abroad. The poster, which was also made into postcards, was sent

to Jordanian embassies abroad, with "good feedback", besides being sold on and given to the local market. It comes in three sizes: 70cm by 100cm, 50 by 70 and 35 by 50.

"It covers 90 per cent of Amman," starting with, in the left hand upper corner, the 8th Circle, encompassing the airport road, the University Road and the Raghdan Palace.

The pride of place is taken by the name of the city, Amman, made up of a brick construction similar to the ruins of the Kingdom, and the bust of the goddess Tyche, who Mr. Badri says, is only known to a few people as being the protector of the city of Philadelphia, the ancient name of Amman.

The Amman Panorama will be followed by Agaba Panorama, to be ready by April, 1993. And the Badris will not stop there. They also intend to make a Kingdom panorama to show the touristic and archaeological sites of Jordan.

It is an idea supported by the Department of Antiquities of the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Badri said. The Dead Sea, the Red Sea, the desert castles and so many

other places of interest to the tourists are going to find their place on the projected poster.

"It will be important even for Jordanians, as many do not know about all these places," said Mr. Badri. "We also have a big idea, but it needs study; it also needs the help of university students, of the Ministry of Tourism, the Royal Geographic Centre, the Department of Archaeology, the Engineer's Association and the Greater Amman Municipality," said Mr. Badri.

The idea, again an original one, entails the creation of a scale model of Amman, to be exhibited in a place accessible to all and to be a faithful reproduction of our capital city. But before the idea bears fruit, the IMS will have to work on their panoramas of the Kingdom.

"By doing this sort of business, right after the Gulf war, we thought we could help Jordan regain its previous touristic status," said television producer Hani Badri, the brother who already had experience in the domain when the company started. "We thought we could present a new concept of advertising, rather than the tradi-

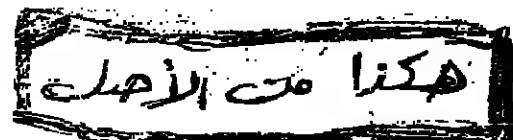
tional TV promotion and paper commercials."

The posters are the first product of the "new concept." It is a unique endeavour to show people how Amman is, even before they come to Jordan. And it could provide a boost to our tourism, on which "we depend, as we have no oil," said Mr. Badri.

But all things considered, a closer look at the poster gives way to criticism. Critics say that apart from the misleading positioning of the buildings, which would definitely not provide a valid point of reference to the unacquainted tourist, the presence of certain obvious commercial establishments, repeated at times, leads people to believe that the authors had business on their minds more than they had tourism.

"The municipality or the geographic centre ought to produce those things (maps, pamphlets) which depict the terrain and landmarks," one critic said.

But since they are not doing their work, they are opening the door for the private sector, which, inevitably, commercialises its enterprises.



Love and blood: Coppola's Dracula

By Eva Galloffe

ROME — After the murder of Michael Corleone in *The Godfather III*, director Francis Ford Coppola went silent. Now he is back with *Dracula*, and, because he is one of the great lights in the movie firmament, anything he directs will be special, all the more so because he has chosen to take up a story that has been filmed from almost every angle. His highly personal rendering of *Dracula* — miles from the Bela Lugosi or Christopher Lee versions — is special precisely because he, Coppola, is directing it.

Coppola says the secret to mixing terror, romanticism, religion and sweeping passion, "was to find a balance between the tragic and the horror element, without losing sight of the part played by an epic-sized love." He added: "It's an important mix because it allowed me to make a tough film, spliced with horror, and have a grand love story at its base. It makes for an unusual film, outside the habitual separate genres."

Many critics have said that his *Dracula* is more like *Beauty and the Beast* than previous vampire versions. "In my heart of hearts, I'm convinced that all human beings are good. Everyone is capable of love. The great problem is that in the world in which we live, the mistakes and wounds from the past can change us into savages. That's what happened to *Dracula*."

A descendant of Count *Dracula* has brought legal proceedings against the director. "I heard about that only while I was in Italy promoting the film. Anyway, I would

say that the historical *Dracula* was a military genius. He founded the city of Bucharest and halted the Turks' invasion of Europe. It's really a shame that he's known and remembered only as a vampire, that is, as a fictional character from a book. The historical Count *Dracula* was never a vampire. Perhaps some German monks wrote that he was bloodthirsty, but that's a long way from saying that he was a vampire."

Nevertheless, some documents report that Count *Dracula* murdered hundreds of people. "No doubt," Coppola said. "But one has to put that fact into the historical context in which he lived. At that time, all rulers, no matter whether they were Turks or Christians or even Roman Catholic clergy did things that today would be considered as war crimes against humanity."

The success of the film, which has even triggered a sort of "Dracula mania" doesn't surprise Coppola. He says that when he was studying the project at Columbia Studios — he didn't write the

script — he had two thoughts. "The first was that this was a great chance to make a film aimed at a large audience, something that's very important for any director. The second idea was that this would enable me to establish a working relationship with Columbia Pictures and that would be of use in getting other projects off the ground."

The director denies problems with Hollywood's major studios over the last 10 years. "On the contrary," he said. "I've always received much goodwill from the Hollywood establishment and never had any bad relations with them. You must not forget that I, too, am a product of Hollywood. The only thing they didn't like was that I decided to set up my own independent studio. They saw that as competition, as a challenge."

In the end, Coppola says, that proved to be disastrous. "The truth is that I've had a hard run-in with really serious financial problems and have spent the last few years trying to stop up all the money leaks. Anyway, I'm 53

years old now, and when you consider that I haven't had a month's vacation since I was 18... well, my only desire is to be alive and well." He says he wants to take a year's sabbatical after the success of *Dracula*. "I need to rest a bit and think over things so I can then go on to do those little and highly personal films that I really like."

Coppola's company, American Zoetrope Productions, will do the production side of a film about Dr. Frankenstein. "Zoetrope has been in business for over 30 years," he said. "It's aim is to strike an equilibrium between big commercial film productions, which balance the books, and productions that permit us to make films with young directors, and not only American ones."

The famed director likes several young American directors and thinks they have talent. "There's no doubt that American film is in the hands of the independent directors — like Woody Allen, for example — who write the scripts they then shoot. As for the up-and-

coming directors, I think Abel Ferrara has a great future." Of his own film directing heritage, the three movies he likes best are *Rumble Fish*, *The Conversation* and *Tonight For Sure*, all films he wrote himself.

In the new Clinton era, will Coppola again be making films with a social message? "The truth of the matter is that I never said that, because I haven't had the time to think such thoughts," he said. "I don't know Bill Clinton personally. However, I think it's a splendid moment when the leadership of a great nation is taken on by a younger generation of politicians. The few people I know who know Clinton tell me that he's a big-hearted and generous person."

Outside of the movies, Coppola has a wine business in California. "I was reading Julius Caesar's Civil Wars when I had to register the trademark of my wine," he explains. "He mentions the Rubicon as a blood-red river. I thought, that's an excellent name for a wine. The Rubi-



Director Francis Ford Coppola's most recent movie *Dracula* combines horror with love

con is famous because it was the river Caesar crossed with his troops, a sort of symbolic

point of no return. And that's exactly where I'm always at — World News Link

The masked monster called The Phantom Of The Opera rolls on



Michael Crawford plays the masked monster in the Phantom Of The Opera.

By Michael Kuchwara
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After five years *The Phantom Of The Opera* remains one of Broadway's hottest tickets, and it doesn't matter who plays the masked monster in the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.

The show has been selling out since it opened Jan. 26, 1988, and people still queue up nightly at the Majestic Theatre for returned tickets.

What is it about the story of a deformed composer who lives in the Paris Opera House and who loves a beautiful young dancer that keeps drawing audiences?

"I don't know," said its producer, Cameron Mackintosh, the man behind such other musical successes as *Cats*, *Les Miserables* and *Miss Saigon*.

"Every now and again a show comes up which has some extraordinary draw to

the public — something, I'm sure, its original creators never dreamed was there. It's almost like an umbilical cord. My Fair Lady had it and Phantom undoubtedly has it. Other of my shows are huge successes, but there's something inexorable about Phantom."

Inexorable — and profitable.

On Broadway alone, the show has grossed more than \$155 million. Worldwide, the figure tops \$1 billion. The current New York advance stands at an astonishing \$17 million, an amount that has remained steady over the last several years. And this figure is for a show that Mr. Mackintosh said "you have to do the least publicity for."

The producer has yet to advertise the Broadway edition on television or radio. The musical's original stars — Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman — left Broadway's Phantom long

ago. Since then, the title character has been played by Timothy Nolen, Cris Groenendaal, Steve Barton, Jeff Keller, Kevin Gray and the current lead, Mark Jacoby.

It has made no difference at the box office.

"Since Oklahoma, musicals have ceased to become vehicles for stars, except on certain occasions," Mr. Mackintosh said. "Musical comedies became musical plays and the play, if it was good enough, transcended all casting."

The show's big special effect is a falling chandelier which narrowly misses the audience when it crashes to the stage. Since the musical opened on Broadway, that chandelier has traveled 280 kilometers, according to the show's trusty press agent, and used 14,770 flash bulbs.

Among other Phantom five-year statistics compiled by the show's staff: 20 babies,

include two sets of twins, were born to company members; 4,200 gun shots were fired at the Phantom; 1,920 ounces (53.7 kilograms) of liquid fog were used, and the actors playing the title character used 520 pounds (236 kilograms) of makeup remover to take off the Phantom's disfiguring scars.

The figures for wardrobe use are equally exhaustive: 2,475 toe shoes, 1,920 men's formal shirts, 720 pairs of gloves, 8,640 pairs of socks, 7,320 pairs of tights, and on and on.

What makes the capacity business done by Phantom on Broadway so impressive is that five other productions of the show are making their way around North America.

The Los Angeles edition has been running there since May 1989; the first touring company began in Chicago the following year and is still travelling, and a second U.S.

company started visiting smaller cities in December. And two Canadian companies, including one in Toronto that stars Colm Wilkinson, continue to pull in huge grosses.

How long does Mr. Mackintosh expect to see Phantom on Broadway?

"I see no reason why it won't be there in five years' time," he said. "But who knows?"

To keep it fresh, director Harold Prince visits regularly as do assistant directors, choreographers, production musical supervisors and others. Every few months, auditions are held for cast replacements. Not that everyone in the cast has left the show. Eleven members of the original Broadway cast are still with the musical.

Mr. Mackintosh also looks in from time to time.

"Because we know the shows very well, we can tell when a performance is either

tired or lackluster — if someone has been playing a particular role too long," Mr. Mackintosh said. "The performances must sparkle. It's a piece that needs to be played to the hilt. Technically, the show rarely has a problem."

"The Achilles' heel of having a smash hit with packed houses every night is that performers can very quickly forget that this is abnormal. They expect packed houses and glowing responses and can easily take that as the norm."

"It's quite often, you know, the shows with the most vociferous casts are the ones that are struggling. Something binds them together to prove they are doing a great show. You have to remind performers in long-running shows that it may be their 300th performance, but it's probably the first time for most of the audience."

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Feb. 18

8:30 Uncle Buck

Buck To The Future

Buck tries to convince Thea that her best interest is in getting a college education, but she insists on a career as a model.

9:10 The Human Factor

Doctor Al

Professor Alec becomes Dr. Al on a new T.V. show, in return for a sizeable amount of money.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — "The Love Tapes"

Starring: Martin Bapsam, Larry Breeding, and Wendy Phillips.

Is it possible to select your life partners through recorded video tapes?

Friday, Feb. 19

8:30 Coach

Father Of The Year

Hayden is elected as the year's ideal father. But his pride takes a sudden fall when his daughter does not attend his party.

9:10 E.N.G.

All In The Game

Jake Antorelli, a cameraman at Channel 10, works on exposing a high school wrestling coach, who drives his students too hard.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Columbo

Last Salute To The Commodore

Columbo's adventure leads him to the dockyards of the millionaires, where he unravels another mystery of a series of crimes.

Saturday, Feb. 20

8:30 America's Funniest Home Videos

A collection of funny video clips revolving mostly around children and animals.

9:00 Perspectives

9:30 Science Workshop

An episode about genetic engineering. The reproduction of micro-organisms and the treatment of various types of cancer.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Return To Justice

Starring: Richard Lynch and Griffin O'Neal.

A powerful, action-packed film set in Columbia, where an American journalist is kidnapped by the district military commander.

Sunday, Feb. 21

8:30 Comedy — Who's The Boss?

Tony And Angela Divorced

Tony and Angela are forced

to prove that they are not married to avoid paying large amounts in income tax.

9:10 Documentary — The Visit

Children of Silence

An episode about children born with hearing disorders, the effects of their disability on their life-styles and new methods used in their education.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Law And Order

Silence

The murder of a public personality in New York unveils a blackmail conspiracy.

Monday, Feb. 22

8:30 Step By Step

Mixed Messages

When Frank installs a new answering machine he thinks his problems are over, but apparently they have only just begun.

9:10 New Drama Series — Martin Bay

Starring: Ilona Rogers, Andi Anderson and Mary Lloyd.

David, a hotel manager, discovers a large scam in the hotel casino which costs him huge amounts of money.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Jordan Weekly

10:40 Mini-Series — Vietnam

As American planes continue to bomb Vietnam, demonstrations against the war in Australia escalate.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

8:30 Perfect Strangers

The Elevator

The two friends are stuck inside an elevator with a huge sofa.

8:55 Beyond 2000

9:10 Dirtwater Dynasty

10:00 News In English

10:20 Big Man

The Diva

Starring: Bud Spencer and Ursula Andress

Wednesday, Feb. 24

8:30 Saved by the Bell

The Student Council gives a huge dancing ball to raise funds for new uniforms for the school's football team.

9:00 Spotlight

9:30 Classic Cars

This episode reveals that refurbishing old cars is much more difficult than building new ones.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Bodyline

The continuing rivalry between the British and Australian cricket teams leads to mounting tension among members of both teams.

Brazilian soap operas — theatre for the masses

By Tova Chapoval
Reuter

RIO DE JANEIRO — When Brazilian soap opera star Daniela Perez was stabbed to death last December the public outcry could not have been greater than if the president of the country was involved.

In fact, the murder of Ms. Perez eclipsed the resignation of one president and the swearing-in of another.

Two months later the bizarre story continues to dominate newspaper headlines and is the topic of conversation everywhere.

While Ms. Perez's co-star Guilherme De Padua confessed to stabbing to death the 22-year-old actress, his lawyer now says charges against his client are groundless.

The judge presiding over the case said it is not unusual for the defence to make such a claim at this stage of the process as a way of maintaining in secrecy its strategy for the trial.

This case of life imitating art has fascinated Brazilians, who are as passionate about the night-time, hour-long soap operas known as "telenovelas" as they are about football and carnival. And an actor in a novela can be as big a star here as the legends of Hollywood are in the United States.

"If Clark Gable had been murdered during the filming of *Gone With The Wind* the impact would have been tremendous. The murder of Daniela Perez had such an impact because of the nove-

la's public," said Alfredo De Freitas Dias Gomes, one of Brazil's most respected playwrights and creator of some of the country's most popular soap operas.

Mr. Dias Gomes is himself part of the phenomenon of the novelas — that they attract the nation's most talented writers, actors and directors.

A member of Brazil's highest literary academy, Mr. Dias Gomes won a Golden Palm Award in Cannes in 1962 for the film based on his play *O Pagador De Promessas*, which in English was called *The Given Word*.

His plays have been staged all over the world while his novelas can be seen in Europe, Latin America, Africa and on Spanish-language stations in the United States.

Brazilians do not marvel at the fact that actor Antonio Fagundes can one day play Hamlet on stage and the next appear as an evil deflowerer of a virgin on her wedding day in the novela *O Dono De Mundo* (The Ruler Of The World). Or that the first lady of Brazilian theatre Fernanda Montenegro, who has appeared on stage at New York's Lincoln Centre, is a regular on novelas.

"It is so difficult to explain the Brazilian novela," Mr. Dias Gomes said in an interview.

They originated in the serial publications of the 19th century, a literary form that attracted such greats as Charles Dickens in England. These stories were carried on the radio earlier this cen-

tury and on television beginning in the 1960s.

They were shown at night, six days a week "and conquered a new public, masculine, more demanding," Mr. Dias Gomes said.

"My generation of playwrights from the 1960s dreamed of a theatre that was political and for the masses. We had political theatre but it did not reach the masses."

Brazilian cinema also became sophisticated and elitist. "This left room for a popular art," he said.

Mr. Dias Gomes was the first Brazilian playwright to turn to novela writing, at a time when it was still perceived as a lesser art form. This was in 1969, when the military dictatorship censored many plays. "For some reason, television was perceived as less dangerous," he said.

One of Mr. Dias Gomes' most successful novelas, the 1985 *Roque Santeiro*, was based on his 1963 play *Berco Do Herói* (Cradle Of The Hero) that had been banned by the military. On some nights 100 per cent of the country's televisions were tuned in to the novela, not just in Brazil, but in countries like Cuba as well.

Mr. Dias Gomes tells the story of a boat of refugees which chose to flee Cuba at the hour of the novela because they knew everyone would be indoors watching.

According to Cuban journalist Ramon Martinez Cruz of the *Prensa Latina* News Agency, Fidel Castro has invited many Brazilian novela stars to visit Cuba, where

they are given a hero's welcome.

"The Brazilian novelas are the biggest success," he said. Mr. Cruz, who also lived in Angola, added: "In Angola everything closes down at night because everyone watches the novelas."

But he noted: "Novelas are a phenomenon of countries where there is nothing better to do. If you are not rich you stay at home at night."

Most of Brazil's biggest actors and writers are under contract at the powerful Globo Television Station, similar to the studio contracts of Hollywood in the 1930s and '40s.

By successfully exporting many of its novelas Globo has turned actors into international stars, not just in the Latin world but in countries such as China, Sonia Braga, who went on to make such Hollywood films as *Kiss Of The Spiderwoman*, first became a star in novelas such as *Gabriela*, based on a book by Brazil's most famous writer, Jorge Amado.

According to Jorge Adib, Globo's managing director of international sales, Globo's export receipts from novelas total about \$25 million a year and are rising by about 10 per cent a year. Buyers pay anywhere from \$150 to \$15,000 per chapter.

Globo spends an average of \$100,000 to \$120,000 per chapter to produce a novela. While countries such as Portugal, Italy and Germany remain the biggest buyers Globo is breaking new ground, having sold two novelas to Russia.

The anti-smoking patch

By Emmanuel Thévenon

In their fight against smoking, doctors now have a new weapon: The nicotine patch. Without being miraculous, this stick-on patch is of considerable help to heavy smokers as it enables them to give up a habit which is particularly harmful to their health, in three months.

PARIS — Scientific studies indisputably show that smoking is harmful. It is directly responsible for most lung diseases (cancer, chronic bronchitis, etc.) and deaths due to cardio-vascular diseases are two to three times more frequent in smokers than in non-smokers. It has also been established that smoking indirectly causes a sharp increase in cancer of the neck, of the womb and certain degenerative diseases.

Smoking, which is considered by doctors as the biggest public enemy, could be the cause of 10 per cent of deaths in the next thirty years. This fact is all the more alarming as cigarette smoking is apparently one of the easiest scourges to avoid as it is enough to give up smoking for good.

In many countries, measures, which are often drastic, have been taken to incite smokers to kick their habit, thereby also sparing the health of non-smokers. In practice, however, even if 50 per cent of smokers strongly wish to give up their addiction to tobacco, they often hesitate as they consider that it will be real torture and any upset could lead to a relapse.

Anxiety and irritability

Inhalation of smoke from a cigarette immediately causes the appearance of a very high level of nicotine in the blood, and then in the brain, to such an extent that some specialists do not hesitate to speak of a real "high" for the organism, comparable to that brought about by the use of

drugs. Once in the brain, the nicotine produces a sense of pleasure, fights anxiety and depression, increases the level of alertness and regulates the weight and the appetite.

However, once the cigarette has been finished, the concentration of nicotine falls rapidly to below dependency level and the smoker feels the need to light another, and so on right to addiction. Any deprivation then rapidly leads to anxiety, irritability, nervousness, headaches and sleep disorders.

Numerous, more or less fanciful therapies have evolved in the last few years. Even if they have never been proved effective, acupuncture and homeopathy are certainly the two techniques that repentant smokers most often turn to. Allopathic medicine places greater emphasis on psychological counselling and the prescription of anti-depressant drugs or ones intended to make tobacco taste horrible.

In 1980, a Swedish firm launched nicotine chewing-gum, enabling generations of hooked smokers to kick the habit. This medicine, available only on prescription,

gives the body its daily dose of nicotine while saving people from breathing in the harmful substances produced by burning tobacco. However, despite its relative effectiveness, patients' wills are often sorely tried.

Indeed, the effects of the gum cease at night and the person, deprived of nicotine, wakes up with strong withdrawal symptoms. Moreover, overconsumption of the gum produces unpleasant side effects such as sore throat, pains in the muscles used for chewing, nausea, anorexia and even hiccups. Finally, the dose of nicotine contained is often too small to cure inveterate smokers.

The nicotine patch, which recently appeared on the market, seems by far the most effective cure for smoking, particularly among very heavy smokers. After consulting their doctors, patients stick a kind of circular plaster on their skins every day. This continuously releases a dose of nicotine and, for a period not exceeding three months, the nicotine goes through the layers of the skin and into the bloodstream, and then reaches the brain.

According to Dr. Francois Bodin, "the patch gives the



To quit smoking is no more a dream

smoker the nicotine that enables him to fight against the desire to smoke, reduces its intensity or prevents withdrawal symptom". The effectiveness of this system, which has practically no side effects, has been clearly established

by strict clinical tests carried out in Europe and in the United States. With more than 60 per cent of success, the patch doubles the results previously obtained by chewing gum — L'Actualité En France.

Study says lefties do not die younger

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Being left handed is not a hazard to your health after all, says a study that disputes an earlier report suggesting southpaws were at risk of dying up to 14 years sooner than righties.

Scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Harvard University examined the rates of death among elderly people in East Boston, Mass., and found that left handed people were at no more risk of dying early than right handed people.

Dr. Jack M. Guralnik of the National Institute of Aging, a part of the NIH, said the data came from a six year community study that included 3,774 people 65 or older in East Boston. All deaths were recorded and analysed.

Although the study was conducted for other reasons, Dr. Guralnik said Thursday, the information collected included whether the subjects were left-handed or right handed. That enabled the researchers to test a theory that southpaws die younger than do right-handed people, he said.

"Over the six-year period, the death rate was 32.2 per cent among right handers and 33.8 per cent for left handers," not a statistically significant difference, Dr. Guralnik said.

The preferred hand, or laterality, of the people was established by asking which hand was used to write and to cut with scissors. Those who used the right hand were considered right handers. Those who used the left or either hand were considered left handers.

Dr. Guralnik said 9.1 per cent of the men and 5.8 per cent of the women in the study were left handed.

He said the East Boston study was the most accurate way to find any differences in the rate of deaths between left and right handers because it compares population groups of the same age. Also, he said, laterality was established by direct interview with the subjects, not by a secondhand information. A 1980 study first raised

the possibility that being left-handed could mean an earlier death. That study found that there was a higher percentage of lefties among the young. It claimed that the mean age of death for lefties was 72, while for righties it was 72, a 14-year difference.

Dr. Guralnik said this study was flawed because the groups studied contained a higher proportion of young left handers.

"Mean age of death is not a good thing to use," he said. "If you have two populations that are very different in age, you would expect the younger population to have a lower mean age of death. It may simply relate to the fact that the population was younger."

A study published in 1991 found that left handed professional baseball players lived for an average of 64 years, about eight months less than righties.

The same researchers, Stanley Coren of the University of British Columbia and Diane Halpern of California State University in San Bernardino, surveyed the next of kin of about 1,000 people who died in southern California to ask which hand was preferred by the dead relative.

They reported that the right handers died at an average age of 75 while the lefties died at about 66.

Other researchers attacked the baseball study because it was based on how the players batted and threw, which they argued could have been based on training, not true laterality.

The California study was criticised because it was based on the recollection of relatives and because it was felt that those who responded to the surveys did not represent a true cross section of the population.

Neither Dr. Coren nor Dr. Halpern could be reached by telephone for comment on the East Boston study.

Co-authors with Dr. Guralnik on the new study were Dr. Marcel E. Salive of the National Institute of Aging and Robert J. Glynn of the Harvard Medical School. Their study was published in the February issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

Common infections 'may trigger strokes'

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press
MIAMI BEACH, Florida — Common bacterial infections that cause pneumonia and other breathing ailments may often trigger strokes, a German study suggests.

"Infections seem to represent an additional risk to patients who are already at risk for strokes," said Dr. Armin Grau, who directed the study.

In the United States, strokes are the third leading cause of death behind heart

attacks and cancer. The disease strikes 500,000 Americans annually.

Experts already recognise several conditions and habits that can touch off strokes. Among them are diabetes, smoking, high blood pressure, heart disease, high cholesterol and alcohol.

While there have been some hints in the past that infections, too, may play a role, the relationship has been unclear.

The latest study, conducted at the University of

Heidelberg in Germany, suggests that infections may triple the risk of strokes.

Dr. Grau presented the findings at the American Heart Association's annual meeting on strokes.

Dr. Mark Fisher of the University of Southern California said he plans to present similar findings at an upcoming medical meeting. But he said it's also possible that other risk factors for stroke may increase the chance of infection, too.

Dr. Grau did not speculate

about how infections might increase the chance of strokes. However, Dr. Donald Heistad of the University of Iowa said the observation fits with studies he has been conducting on the role of white blood cells in strokes.

The body increases its supply of white cells, or leukocytes, when it fights infections.

"There is evidence that leukocytes may damage blood vessels" and change the way blood clots, Dr.

Heistad said.

Most strokes occur when a blood clot plugs one of the arteries that supply the brain. Cells are deprived of oxygen, and a section of the brain dies, often resulting in permanent damage.

In the German study, doctors examined 92 German stroke patients and compared them with 92 people randomly chosen from the Heidelberg area.

They found that 24 of the stroke patients had experienced infections in the month before their seizures, compared with eight members of the comparison "infections occurred mainly within one week prior to the strokes," said Dr. Grau.

Twenty-one of the 24 were still recovering from their infections when the strokes occurred.

They also found that 21 of the infections were respiratory tract ailments, and most were caused by bacteria rather than viruses.

Meanwhile another study

concluded that a new team approach developed to treat stroke victims can reduce hospital stays by one third and sharply cut the complication rate as well.

At Yale-New Haven Hospital, where doctors tested the new approach, they found that it saved \$600,000 a year in room charges alone.

"Attention to details from admission onwards by a team of stroke specialists means patients are more likely to receive the most appropriate care," said Deborah Webb, a nurse.

Ms. Webb also presented the findings on the approach at the stroke conference.

Over four years, the team reduced hospital stays for stroke patients from an average of 16 days to 11.

The Yale team also believes its effort resulted in fewer complications. Urinary infections dropped 31 per cent and pneumonia 12 per cent.

Weather and seasons linked to deadly bleeding strokes

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Florida — Stormy weather appears to trigger deadly bleeding strokes in men, often in the late fall, while women are more vulnerable in the springtime, researchers reported Saturday.

Researchers are unsure why this happens, but they speculated that bad weather may raise blood pressure and cause other changes that make arteries burst.

They found that a kind of stroke known as a subarachnoid hemorrhage is likely to occur at different times of the year in men and women. In men, about 40 per cent of these strokes happen in November and December. Women have about 30 per cent of them in April and May—and, unlike with men, weather changes don't seem to be a factor.

Subarachnoid hemorrhages are especially disastrous forms of stroke. They strike, usually without warning, when a weak spot in one of the arteries on the surface of the brain bursts open. These weak spots, called aneurysms, typically produce no symptoms until they break.

Each year, about 30,000 Americans suffer these kinds of strokes. Between one-third and one-half die immediately, while an addition-

al third die despite medical care. Most of those who survive are seriously impaired.

Dr. Douglas Chyatte of Northwestern University Medical School presented the latest findings at a stroke conference sponsored by the American Heart Association.

His team analysed all 1,487 subarachnoid hemorrhages that happened during the 1980s in the state of Connecticut. They matched patient records with hourly weather reports.

Among the findings: — Most of the men's strokes during the decade occurred in 14 clusters. Thirteen of these were within 72 hours of changes in the weather.

— The weather changes that appeared to trigger the men's strokes were falling barometres, plunging temperatures and rain or snow.

— Women's strokes fell into 39 clusters, but they were not linked with bad weather.

Dr. Chyatte said that since bad weather is unavoidable, his work does not suggest any immediate ways to ward off strokes. But he said it may provide clues to what actually triggers them.

"These strokes are catastrophic," he said. "Most of them give no warning. So the question of why this happens is important. If we knew what caused an aneurysm to rupture, then maybe we can help

people before their brains blow out."

Dr. Chyatte speculated that stormy weather could raise blood pressure, make the blood thicker or trigger the body to produce chemicals that eat holes in blood vessels. Any of these might break an already weakened artery.

Another possibility, he said, is that people change their behaviour when the sea-

sons turn, and this somehow increases their susceptibility to strokes.

Dr. John R. Taylor of the Medical College of Virginia suggested that farmers and construction workers, among others, might stay home and drink when the weather is bad. Alcohol long has been associated with strokes.

Others cautioned that the finding might be a statistical fluke.

ANSWERS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. A) Fifth Column: A term of abuse for traitors (derived from the name applied to rebel sympathisers in Madrid, Spain, in 1936 when four columns were advancing on the city).
B) Fourth Estate: The press (for its power to mould public opinion for or against the existing government).
C) Autocracy: Dictatorship: an absolute government by one man; despotism.
Plutocracy: a government by wealthy people.
2. A stud.
3. The text of an opera.
4. Badminton.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

1. The animals included in the square are:
Rabbit Bear Horse
Eland Bison Camel
Monkey Zebra Baboon
Donkey Llama Tiger

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2. 1, 2 and 3.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

OUT OF THIS WORLD

By Raymond Hamel

- ACROSS
- 1 Clon
 - 5 Royal English
 - 9 Pork cut
 - 13 Spatter liquid
 - 18 Circa
 - 20 Popcorn
 - 21 Rattle
 - 22 The Love
 - 23 Ranger's hand
 - 24 Where to find
 - 25 Robby the Robot
 - 26 Poisonous snake
 - 27 Mother of Cain
 - 28 Mental's
 - 29 vegetable
 - 30 Darned
 - 31 Drops a baseball
 - 32 Tell
 - 34 Will of "The Watsons"

- DOWN
- 2 Higher than
 - 3 Fr. philosopher
 - 4 Center
 - 6 Lure Skywalker's
 - 7 Bulking over
 - 8 Washer cycle
 - 9 "Maggie" host
 - 10 Singer Snow
 - 11 Baseball's
 - 12 "Maggie" host
 - 13 Russian czar
 - 14 Shogun
 - 15 "The King"
 - 16 March
 - 17 Pharaoh's

- 35 Surbeam

37 "A Chorus Line"

38 Punctuation mark

39 Branch

40 Mastic

41 Easy

42 Baseball's M.L.

43 Tally, only

44 Maltine

45 Shape

46 Hanged novel

47 Ed

48 Drama

49 Variety of silica

50 Fi

51 Tally

52 Thaw

53 Offspring

54 George Invader

55 One reading

- 56 US canal

57 "Sanctus"

58 Preservation

59 Strichens

60 White

61 "for words"

62 Harvest

63 Pitch out water

64 Dye

65 Human being

66 Awar's partner

67 "Common"

68 "Sinner" writer

69 Bird insect

70 "Sign note"

71 Long note

72 "The King"

73 "The King"

74 "The King"

75 "The King"

- 76 "The King"

77 "The King"

78 "The King"

79 "The King"

80 "The King"

81 "The King"

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104 "The King"

105 "The King"

106 "The King"

107 "The King"

108 "The King"

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. When cut awake from catnap, she snuffed catnap, took one sip of it, and...
2. Some lucky people become weak-kneed and much, others number, when their number comes up in the lottery.
3. I.E.S. motto: I'll not rest any more at time to rest.
4. Man with white beard and red suit, arrested by others, claimed defense of "mummy class."

CRYPTOGRAMS

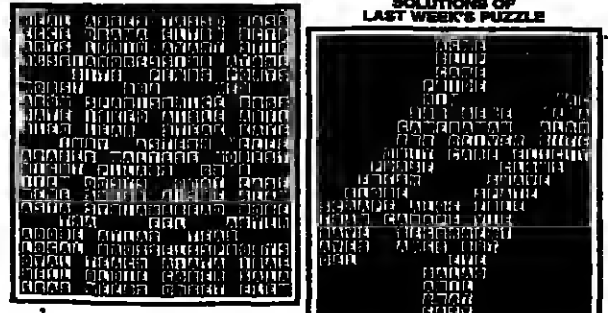
1. XYCFICFT XAA ZFT VEAK PACFT GAWXYCFT WVISG PACFT CX RFXCYFVZSE.
2. JCT BMAIQAH JSLPS SDBX QLSSE LI IAP MDEBLS ELH JABX TCSEKCAIQ.
3. IEUBLR VRESE SDFYDE RUND XMDYER WCLEOFD ZDDK XWOPL VRESE LOSEK LWCKOELE ZCL SWINDLE LOSE UPENUR.
4. KOBUSHI PHUZPUMA BEUPNE ZOI ELLM HNW RE KOI LRE ALLFINE WL ALLS FRIE.

—By Gordon Miller

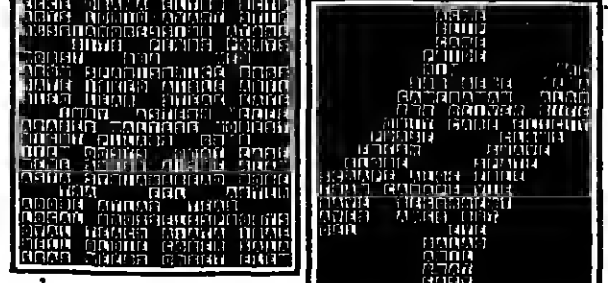
—By Earl Ireland

—By Armitage Shanks

—By Ed Holliday



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Exiles mark beginning of 3rd month in Lebanon

MARJAL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinian expellees launched hundreds of balloons Wednesday to mark the start of the third month of their ordeal in South Lebanon.

The 396 men, expelled by Israel on Dec. 17, marched about 500 metres from their tent camp towards Israeli lines before releasing the balloons carrying messages to their families.

"Sixty days passed and we are still far from our families and homeland," spokesman Aziz Dweik told the group. "Where is international legitimacy and resolutions of the U.N. Security Council?"

Expellees held up the Koran or raised their index fingers in the victory sign of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas while they marched towards Israel's frontlines.

They demand Israel immediately take them all back in line with Security Council Resolution 799, issued a day after the men were banished accused of being linked to hostile Islamic groups.

They reject a U.S.-brokered Israeli offer to take back 96 and cut the term in exile for the rest to a maximum of one year and insist that all or none will return from no man's land.

Expellee leader Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi demanded U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who starts a Middle East tour Thursday, pressure Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to abide by the resolution.

Mr. Christopher is to try to convince Arab partners to the peace process to resume negotiations with Israel regardless of the crisis, which stalled resumption of 16-month-old talks.

He arrives in Egypt Thursday and goes to Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Israel. He may also visit Lebanon.

"Let Christopher, Rabin, Palestinian negotiators and the Arabs listen to us: we will die here between the rocks and we will refuse to recognise the legitimacy of our expulsion," Dr. Rantisi said.

He urged all Arab states to tell the U.S. officials that they would not return to the negotiating table with Israel.

Palestinian negotiators have said they will boycott the talks until all the expellees are allowed to return home.

Meanwhile two Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) activists agreed to three years' expulsion to Jordan rather than arrest and imprisonment in Israel, according to Israeli and Arab reports Wednesday.

Such expulsions generally occur after an Arab has been convicted, but the Israeli army apparently is trying to expand the use of exile as a penalty.

Last July, six Palestinian youths agreed to three years' expulsion in Jordan to end a standoff between students and the army at the West Bank's Al Najah University.

The latest case involved Riyad Sbeih, 22, from the village of Kufir Rai and Imad Zakut, 20, from Jeddah. Both are in the occupied West Bank.

Sbeih left Tuesday for Jordan,

the Israeli daily Haaretz said. Sbeih was wanted by Israel for membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the newspaper and Arab reports said.

Mr. Zakut left last week, they said. He was suspected of membership in the Black Panther enforcement group affiliated with the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction, the reports said.

Haaretz said the two men agreed to a temporary exile. Arab reporters said lawyers for the men negotiated the exile instead of detention by Israel.

The army would not comment on the cases. An army official confirmed, however, that "there are cases in which someone prefers to leave the country for a specific period instead of continuing his prison sentence."

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U.N. team discovers new proof of Iraq's missile programme

BAGHDAD (AP) — United Nations weapons inspectors discovered "a great deal of information" Wednesday leading some to believe that Iraq may still be actively pursuing its missile programme.

The inspection team used a helicopter to visit the site south of Baghdad, but refrained from flying over the Iraqi capital, a subject of controversy in recent days.

Patrice Palanque, the Frenchman heading the 13-member team of ballistic missile experts, said that a "great deal of information" had been gathered and would be analysed by U.N. experts in New York.

Mr. Palanque refused to reveal other details about the materials or the site, which was not disclosed on Iraq's list of facilities used in programmes to develop missiles or chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

"I can't say anything more

now," Mr. Palanque said. But other inspectors, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the discovery was important because it led them to believe that Iraq was still active in its ballistic missile programme.

They provided no details. The team arrived Friday on an eight-day mission under the aegis of the U.N. special commission, which is determining whether Iraq is complying with ceasefire resolutions that ended the 1991 Gulf war.

Under the ceasefire terms, the Iraqis must disclose and dismantle missiles and weapons of mass destruction and the facilities for developing and producing them.

The special commission reportedly wants to challenge Baghdad's refusal to allow the teams to fly helicopters over the capital on inspection missions.

Commission officials at U.N. headquarters insist that the inspectors have that right and want to fly over two Baghdad sites suspected of having equipment to design prototypes of nuclear warheads.

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Iraqi officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed apprehension over the flights, saying that any aircraft over Baghdad presents a threat to the safety of President Saddam Hussein.

The government has not officially reacted to the helicopter issue. The helicopter flights could test Iraq's new policy of cooperation

in an effort to get U.N. sanctions imposed during the Gulf war lifted and rebuild his shattered economy.

Since the Bush administration ordered allied air raids over Iraq last month, the Baghdad government has promised to cooperate with U.N. inspections and not to fire on U.S., French and British planes enforcing aerial exclusion zones over northern and southern

Iraq. The special commission has sent 50 teams comprising more than 550 experts to Iraq since the end of the Gulf war. They regularly receive tips based on photographs taken by U.S. spy planes and other information from Western intelligence agencies.

No Scud missiles have been unearthed since March 1992, although Western intelligence experts estimate Iraq still has 100 or 200 hidden away.

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Thabet Al Taher
General Manager

U.S. TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE
A taxpayer service specialist from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be at the American Embassy in Amman on February 18 to 24 to assist U.S. taxpayers. A special tax seminar will be conducted on Sunday, February 21, at 2:00 p.m. in the United States Information Service auditorium at the embassy. Anyone who is interested will be welcome to attend. No reservation is necessary.
Individual assistance will be provided in the consular section of the embassy at the following times:
February 18 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
February 21 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
February 22, 23, and 24 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Each taxpayer is advised to have a copy of his or her last filed return and to have all papers well organized and scheduled to the extent possible when appearing for assistance.
Service will be on a first come/first serve basis for those without appointments. Individual appointments may be made by calling 820-101, extension 2061.
Income tax forms and information booklets are now available in the consular section of the embassy.

VACANCY
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Training or previous experience in finance/accounting is desired.
Completion of secondary school is required.
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Salary is commensurate with capabilities and experience.
Interested applicants may pick up an application form at the front gate of the American Embassy in Abdoun. Forms should be submitted by March 1, 1993.

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Drawing of Feb. 17, 1993
Ordinary Issue No. 3

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 16623 Wins JD 30,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 1,200 each wins JD 120 24623 17623 16723 16633 16622
Holder of ticket No. 30276 Wins JD 7,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 700 each wins JD 70 40276 31276 30376 30286 30277 20276 39276 30176 30266 30275
Holder of ticket No. 93112 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 400 each wins JD 40 03112 94112 93212 93122 93113 83112 92112 93012 93102 93111
Holder of ticket No. 16254 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 250 each wins JD 25 26254 17254 16354 16264 16255 06254 15254 16154 16244 16253
Holder of ticket No. 09468 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 150 each wins JD 15 19468 00468 09568 09478 09469 99468 09468 09368 09458 09467
Holder of ticket No. 99822 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each wins JD 10 09822 90822 99922 99832 99823 89822 98822 99722 99812 99821
Holder of ticket No. 67104 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 80 each wins JD 8 77104 68104 67204 67114 67105 57104 66104 67004 67194 67103
Holder of ticket No. 91290 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 70 each wins JD 7 01290 92290 91390 91200 91291 81290 90290 91190 91280 91299

Ticket numbers **06420 17865 22672 20397** Win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers **60657 14424 91376** Win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

2013 5472 6836 Win JD 50 each	7128 5866 9075 Win JD 20 each
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3235 4140 Win JD 3 each	248 361 503 899 Win JD 2 each

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Winners of the grand prizes in the special issue number 2 of Feb. 2, 1993

Hamada Ismail Amman-Sheikh Half Grand Prize AJD20,000	Muhammad Al Sahhadi Amman-Ramtha Half Grand Prize AJD20,000	Redi Amr Irbid-Empire Half First Prize (Share) JD100,000	Saleh Muhammad Zagaz-Dock Half First Prize (Share) JD100,000	Muhammad Amr Amman-Work Half Fourth Prize AJD20,000	Wahid Ismail Irbid-Fourth Half Fourth Prize AJD20,000	Abdul Hamid Turki Kash-Work Half Fifth Prize AJD10,000
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Next Draw takes place on March 2, 1993
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Hair Vitamin W, Hair Vitamin X, Hair Vitamin Y, Hair Vitamin Z, Hair Vitamin AA, Hair Vitamin AB, Hair Vitamin AC, Hair Vitamin AD, Hair Vitamin AE, Hair Vitamin AF, Hair Vitamin AG, Hair Vitamin AH, Hair Vitamin AI, Hair Vitamin AJ, Hair Vitamin AK, Hair Vitamin AL, Hair Vitamin AM, Hair Vitamin AN, Hair Vitamin AO, Hair Vitamin AP, Hair Vitamin AQ, Hair Vitamin AR, Hair Vitamin AS, Hair Vitamin AT, Hair Vitamin AU, Hair Vitamin AV, Hair Vitamin AW, Hair Vitamin AX, Hair Vitamin AY, Hair Vitamin AZ, Hair Vitamin BA, Hair Vitamin BB, Hair Vitamin BC, Hair Vitamin BD, Hair Vitamin BE, Hair Vitamin BF, Hair Vitamin BG, Hair Vitamin BH, Hair Vitamin BI, Hair Vitamin BJ, Hair Vitamin BK, Hair Vitamin BL, Hair Vitamin BM, Hair Vitamin BN, Hair Vitamin BO, Hair Vitamin BP, Hair Vitamin BQ, Hair Vitamin BR, Hair Vitamin BS, Hair Vitamin BT, Hair Vitamin BU, Hair Vitamin BV, Hair Vitamin BW, Hair Vitamin BX, Hair Vitamin BY, Hair Vitamin BZ, Hair Vitamin CA, Hair Vitamin CB, Hair Vitamin CC, Hair Vitamin CD, Hair Vitamin CE, Hair Vitamin CF, Hair Vitamin CG, Hair Vitamin CH, Hair Vitamin CI, Hair Vitamin CJ, Hair Vitamin CK, Hair Vitamin CL, Hair Vitamin CM, Hair Vitamin CN, Hair Vitamin CO, Hair Vitamin CP, Hair Vitamin CQ, Hair Vitamin CR, Hair Vitamin CS, Hair Vitamin CT, Hair Vitamin CU, Hair Vitamin CV, Hair Vitamin CW, Hair Vitamin CX, Hair Vitamin CY, Hair Vitamin CZ, Hair Vitamin DA, Hair Vitamin DB, Hair Vitamin DC, Hair Vitamin DD, Hair Vitamin DE, Hair Vitamin DF, Hair Vitamin DG, Hair Vitamin DH, Hair Vitamin DI, Hair Vitamin DJ, Hair Vitamin DK, Hair Vitamin DL, Hair Vitamin DM, Hair Vitamin DN, Hair Vitamin DO, Hair Vitamin DP, Hair Vitamin DQ, Hair Vitamin DR, Hair Vitamin DS, Hair Vitamin DT, Hair Vitamin DU, Hair Vitamin DV, Hair Vitamin DW, Hair Vitamin DX, Hair Vitamin DY, Hair Vitamin DZ, Hair Vitamin EA, Hair Vitamin EB, Hair Vitamin EC, Hair Vitamin ED, Hair Vitamin EE, Hair Vitamin EF, Hair Vitamin EG, Hair Vitamin EH, Hair Vitamin EI, Hair Vitamin EJ, Hair Vitamin EK, Hair Vitamin EL, Hair Vitamin EM, Hair Vitamin EN, Hair Vitamin EO, Hair Vitamin EP, Hair Vitamin EQ, Hair Vitamin ER, Hair Vitamin ES, Hair Vitamin ET, Hair Vitamin EU, Hair Vitamin EV, Hair Vitamin EW, Hair Vitamin EX, Hair Vitamin EY, Hair Vitamin EZ, Hair Vitamin FA, Hair Vitamin FB, Hair Vitamin FC, Hair Vitamin FD, Hair Vitamin FE, Hair Vitamin FF, Hair Vitamin FG, Hair Vitamin FH, Hair Vitamin FI, Hair Vitamin FJ, Hair Vitamin FK, Hair Vitamin FL, Hair Vitamin FM, Hair Vitamin FN, Hair Vitamin FO, Hair Vitamin FP, Hair Vitamin FQ, Hair Vitamin FR, Hair Vitamin FS, Hair Vitamin FT, Hair Vitamin FU, Hair Vitamin FV, Hair Vitamin FW, Hair Vitamin FX, Hair Vitamin FY, Hair Vitamin FZ, Hair Vitamin GA, Hair Vitamin GB, Hair Vitamin GC, Hair Vitamin GD, Hair Vitamin GE, Hair Vitamin GF, Hair Vitamin GH, Hair Vitamin GI, Hair Vitamin GJ, Hair Vitamin GK, Hair Vitamin GL, Hair Vitamin GM, Hair Vitamin GN, Hair Vitamin GO, Hair Vitamin GP, Hair Vitamin GQ, Hair 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U.N. convoy stopped by Serbs as Sarajevo fighting continues

SARAJEVO (R) — A United Nations convoy trying to take emergency supplies to Muslims blockaded by rebel Serbs in eastern Bosnia was stopped by Serb militia Wednesday, a U.N. official said.

Lyndall Sachs, of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Belgrade, said the Serbs would not allow the 10 trucks through a checkpoint at Rogatica in eastern Bosnia.

"The Serb command there says he will not permit the convoy to pass unless there is an exchange of prisoners," said Ms. Sachs.

The trucks are trying to reach besieged Muslims at Gorazde, 30 kilometres from Rogatica. Ms. Sachs said the Serb commander was insisting the convoy should bring back Serb prisoners held by the Muslims in Gorazde.

Ms. Sachs said the convoy would wait at the Serbs' checkpoint until they allowed it to pass. She said another convoy, stopped since Sunday by Bosnian Serbs on the Drina River border between Bosnia and Serbia, would also remain where it was until the Serbs permitted it to pass.

"These convoys are going to get through," Ms. Sachs said.

Tens of thousands of Muslims have been trapped in eastern Bosnia since Serbs rebelled against Bosnia's declaration of independence last March.

The convoy stranded at the River Drina has been trying to reach Cerska, where the UNHCR estimated 25,000 of the Muslims are besieged.

The Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug quoted sources in the Bosnian Serb forces as charging that the aid would only go to

Muslim soldiers in Cerska. They said most civilians had left the area.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo radio said Serb besiegers were bombarding parts of the Bosnian capital with artillery, tank fire and mortars.

But it said there were only occasional shells and sniper fire in the strategic western suburbs of Stup and Azici, which Serbs have been trying to capture for a week.

On Tuesday the radio reported that troops of the Muslim-led Bosnian government fell back from their front line in Stup and Azici to a second line of defence.

The two suburbs, about six kilometres from the centre of Sarajevo, are the last government-held areas west of the main highway linking the besieged city with the airport. If they fall the Serbs will control the vital road.

The radio said Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic complained to U.N. peacekeepers that the Bosnian Serb army was not observing a ceasefire for the convoys. He said Serbs were still attacking near Cerska.

Tanjug said Serb forces at Bratunac, in the east, had captured a lead and zinc mine. It said the mine's Muslim defenders had been threatening to blow up a dam holding back toxic chemicals which could have flowed into the Drina.

The agency quoted the Bosnian Serbs as saying fierce fighting was going on in the area.

Croatian radio said Serb artillery shelled the Adriatic region of Zadar until late Tuesday, causing considerable damage to the town of Biograd. The firing stopped overnight.

At the United Nations in New York, diplomats said U.N. mediator Cyrus Vance was expected to quit peace talks on the former Yugoslavia once New York negotiations on Bosnia-Herzegovina were completed.

A senior envoy said Mr. Vance, the former U.S. secretary of state, had wanted to leave at the end of February but would most likely stay into March to wrap up the current phase of talks to end the war in Bosnia.

Two weeks ago Mr. Vance and his co-chairman Lord Owen moved the bulk of the conference on the former Yugoslavia to New York, but some of the discussions are expected to return to Geneva within the next few months.

Serbs from the Krajina enclave in Croatia began talks with international mediators Tuesday, saying they came to New York to find a solution to fighting that shattered a year-old ceasefire.

"They said they were here to find a solution but that Croatia's actions confirmed their worst fears and makes it difficult to negotiate on the basis of trust," a source sitting in on the talks said. The mediation team is determined during the next six weeks to patch up a ceasefire, blown apart when Croatia's army began to bombard Serb-dominated areas under U.N. protection.

The aim of the talks is also to establish a truce zone, begin demilitarising the entire area, provide for return of refugees and eventually work towards some semi-autonomy for Serbs in Croatia, the root of the problem since Zagreb declared independence in 1991.

Goran Hadzic, president of the self-declared "Republic of Krajina," told reporters he hoped the

Security Council, which will extend the mandate of U.N. peacekeepers to March 1 only, would renew the troops for a year.

Meanwhile EC observers said Tuesday Croatian military police have beaten up and forcefully evicted men and women who refused to leave apartments in Croatia formerly owned by the Yugoslav army.

Families occupying the apartments, many of them Serbs and Macedonians, have been told to leave to make way for Croatian soldiers and their families, the observers said.

"Croatian military police sometimes turn up with a Croatian soldier, they try to get the families to leave. If they don't agree they come back and start threatening them," Finn Nielsen, an EC legal adviser on humanitarian affairs, told reporters in Zagreb.

"There have been some cases where military police break into homes and beat the inhabitants." He said some families had been thrown out on the street and were unable to retrieve any of their possessions.

Observers of the EC monitoring mission sent to former Yugoslavia after war broke out in Croatia in 1991 have investigated reports of evictions and cases of intimidation in Zagreb and the Adriatic cities of Rijeka, Split and Dubrovnik.

There was no immediate comment from the Croatian government.

"Our teams on the spot have taken the cases up with local authorities and we have made a general protest to Croatian authorities here in Zagreb but we have had no response," Mr. Nielsen said.



GHALI HONOURED: President of Waseda University Chumaro Kayama (left) and a staffer of the school (right) put a hood on U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to present an honorary

doctorate in law at the university in Tokyo. Earlier leftist students gave Dr. Ghali a rude welcome Wednesday when he visited the university to accept the honorary doctorate (AFP photo)

UNITA split grows; Angola battle rages

LUANDA (Agencies) — Dissident UNITA members prepared to defy their leader Jonas Savimbi and take their seats in parliament Wednesday in a sign of a growing split in Angola's embattled rebel movement.

The decision by 14 of the 70 UNITA deputies elected in last September's general election followed increasing criticism by some leaders of the movement of the renewed civil war that has erupted since Mr. Savimbi refused to accept defeat in the election.

The dissidents said they opposed the resumption of the war.

"We are choosing peace and dialogue over war and are going to fulfill our democratic duties," UNITA's shadow interior minister Honorio Van Dunem told Reuters.

"But this does not mean we are leaving UNITA," he added.

State-run media said the crucial six-week battle for Huambo, Angola's devastated second city, was intensifying but two senior UNITA officials had contacted U.N. representative Margaret Anstee Tuesday asking for three days to set a date for renewed peace talks.

State radio identified the offi-

cials as Jake Jamba and Secretary-General Eugenio Manuavakola.

UNITA's Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel radio said Tuesday its forces had pinned down government troops in the governor's palace at Huambo and an attempt by columns of reinforcements to relieve them was "bound to fail."

Military sources in Luanda, the capital, say 10,000 men in two relief columns are heading for the city where the government says UNITA has 12,000 fighters.

Much of Huambo, formerly Mr. Savimbi's headquarters in the central highlands, has been destroyed in the bitter fighting. Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Chicote has said at least 10,000 civilians have been killed and 15,000 wounded in the city.

An army communiqué on state television Tuesday monitored by the BBC said troops in government-held districts of Huambo, "notably the palace and its vicinity," were being heavily shelled and were harassed for "massive" attacks by UNITA.

State media Wednesday also reported fighting in the provinces of Bie, Huila, Cuando Cubango and Moxico in the centre, south and west of the country.

UNITA's request for three days to set a date for peace talks followed a decision last weekend by the observer countries overseeing a May 1991 ceasefire agreement, Portugal, the United States and Russia, giving UNITA until Wednesday to set a new date for talks.

Peace negotiations in Addis Ababa in late January failed to produce a ceasefire and UNITA cancelled a second round due to have started a week ago.

Meanwhile, a Cuban official said Tuesday that his country had not ruled out fresh military assistance to the Angolan government, which is fighting a renewed civil war.

Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Ramirez De Estonez stressed that there were no plans for his country to once again become involved in the Angolan conflict.

But when asked how Cuba would respond if the Angolan government sought military aid, he said: "We can't rule it out, but it would have to be decided by our governments and there has been no request from the Angolan government."

"We will continue to give political and moral support to the Angolan people," Mr. Ramirez added.

ANC to put power-sharing plan to members

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The ANC said Wednesday it had decided to consult its members on its controversial "power sharing plan," sparking a "South Africa's" might be

that the ANC official who declined to be named. The tentative power-sharing agreement, hammered out by government and ANC negotiators, has also been attacked by Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi who warned any such secret deal could lead to civil war.

Teams from the government and Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party were holding talks at a secret venue in Natal province Wednesday to try to allay the Zulu leader's fears that he might be left out of any deal on

democracy. Political analysts said the government faced a major hurdle in explaining power-sharing proposals to Inkatha which has already said it would not accept an interim government or a government of national unity.

South Africa's political parties and opposition groups are due to hold a planning conference at the weekend to discuss the resumption of multi-party talks.

But several leaders said the meeting might be called off because of reports that the ANC and the government had formally agreed on the need for blacks and whites effectively to share power for five years in a government of national unity after South Africa's first all-race elections.

Japanese 'bikes' home from Hawaii

TOKYO (R) — An adventurer who pedalled a boat 7,500 kilometres from Hawaii to Japan arrived home to a hero's welcome after 110 days at sea. "The first thing I want is a bath," said Kenichi Horie after coming ashore on the southern island of Okinawa to loud applause and bunches of flowers from well-wishers, including wife Eriko. Mr. Horie, 54, set out from Hawaii on Oct. 29 in a canoe-shaped boat with a set of bicycle pedals connected to a propeller. Ham radio operators, in touch with Mr. Horie throughout his long voyage, announced Saturday that he had reached his destination, a point about 600 kilometres south of the main island of the Okinawa archipelago. Horie's 7.91-metre long, 1.76-metre wide, reinforced plastic boat Mermaid had been linked up with another boat which towed him to Naha Port on Okinawa.

COLUMN

Barbara Bush treated for minor injury

MIAMI (R) — Former President George Bush's wife Barbara was treated for a minor cut on her arm at a Miami Hospital, a spokesman for the Bushes said. Andrew Maner said a cut Mrs. Bush had on her arm from before she left the White House on Jan. 20 had opened up and she had it checked at a Miami Hospital. The spokesman could not say how Mrs. Bush was cut in the first place. "I've just spoken to her. She is in perfect health and she is going out to dinner," Mr. Maner said from Houston, where the Bushes now live. At Mrs. Bush's request Jackson Memorial Hospital did not release any details about the injury. She was seen walking out of the hospital with a bandage on her left forearm. "It was a minor injury — she was here for about an hour," said hospital spokesman Bruce Fresko.

Police arrest British 'home alone' mother

LONDON (R) — British police have arrested a mother who allegedly left her 11-year-old daughter alone at home while she took a holiday in Spain, it said Wednesday. Yasmin Gibson, 31, was seized as she arrived at London's Heathrow Airport Tuesday night. British Television showed Ms. Gibson, an actress, sobbing and protesting her innocence as she was led away. Her daughter, Gemma, told relatives earlier this month that she had been left alone and was turned over to social workers. The case prompted a media storm and was compared to the Hollywood film Home Alone, in which a boy left alone by his family, and to a case in which two parents in the United States were arrested for leaving their young daughters behind while they holidayed in Mexico. As she was hustled away from Heathrow to a waiting police van, Ms. Gibson, tears running down her face, cried out: "I didn't do anything wrong. I invited her on holiday."

Howards End, Unforgiven top Oscar nominees

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Howards End, the lush English drama about love transcending class lines, collected a leading nine Oscar nominations Wednesday, tying with Clint Eastwood's revisionist western Unforgiven.

The two were nominated for Best Picture, as were The Crying Game, A Few Good Men, Scent of a Woman.

Nominated for Best Actor were Eastwood, Al Pacino for Scent of a Woman, Stephen Rea for The Crying Game, Denzel Washington for Malcolm X and Robert Downey Jr. for Chaplin.

Best Actress selections were Emma Thompson for Howards End, Susan Sarandon in Lorenzo's Oil, Michelle Pfeiffer in Love Field, Mary McDonnell in Passion Fish and Catherine Deneuve in Indochine.

Pacino scored a rare double, earning nominations in the Supporting Actor category as well for Glengarry Glen Ross. Other supporting actor picks were Jaye Davidson in The Crying Game, Gene Hackman in Unforgiven, Jack Nicholson in A Few Good Men and David Paymer for Mr. Saturday Night.

Among the more surprising selections was a Best Supporting Actress honour for Marisa Tomei in the critical disaster My Cousin Vinny. Joining her in the category were Judy Davis in The Piano and Wives, Joan Plowright in Enchanted April, Vanessa Redgrave in Howards End and Miranda Richardson in Damage.

The Player, the devastating sendup of Hollywood filmmaking, received two top nominations: For director Rob Altman and screenwriter Michael Tolkin.

Eastwood joined a select group nominated for acting and directing the same year. Other directing selections were James Ivory for Howards End, Neil Jordan for The Crying Game and Martin Brest for Scent of a Woman.

The foreign language nominees were Russia's Close To Eden, Belgium's Daens, France's Indochine, Uruguay's A Place In The World and Germany's Schtonk.

Miss Deneuve became the 20th performer nominated for a non-English language role.

Among those overlooked in the nominations were Tom Cruise, who starred in A Few Good Men, and Spike Lee, who directed Malcolm X.

The Crying Game had the second most nominations with six, followed by the animated musical Aladdin with five.

In addition to picture, director, supporting and lead actress, Howards End was nominated for art direction, cinematography, costume design, original score and adapted screenplay.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

China frees 3 dissidents

PEKING (R) — China Wednesday freed three dissidents including student Wang Dan, who topped the most-wanted list after a 1989 crackdown on democracy protests, to try to blunt Western criticism of its human rights record. The official Xinhua News Agency said the freeing of Wang and fellow student Guo Haifeng months before their four-year prison terms expired marked the end of China's punishment of student leaders of the protests smashed by the army on June 4, 1989. "So far, all the students who violated the criminal law during the anti-government disturbances in 1989 and were sentenced to different terms of imprisonment have been released," the agency said. China also freed a 76-year-old Roman Catholic bishop on Wednesday, Xinhua said. The case of Bishop Zhu Hongsheng, sentenced to 15 years in prison, was unrelated to the pro-democracy protests but led to international calls that China allow more freedom of worship. Beijing worried that the new administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton will be tough on human rights, has recently released a handful of imprisoned dissidents and let others leave the country.

Mitterrand to join campaign fray

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand, his Socialist Party facing a near-certain debacle in next month's parliamentary election, enters the fray personally this week in a live television dialogue with voters. Mr. Mitterrand, 76, whose popularity is at a low ebb, will appear on two successive prime-time 45-minute programmes this Thursday and Friday less than six weeks before the March 21 and 28 election. An opinion poll published Wednesday confirmed all recent surveys, forecasting the centre-right opposition alliance would win 40 per cent of the popular vote and capture 453 of the 577 National Assembly seats. The Socialists, with 21 per cent, would get just 80 seats compared to 270 in the outgoing parliament.

Top Filipino kidnapper killed

MANILA (R) — Police shot dead the Philippines' "public enemy number one" Wednesday as he fled across a ricefield, and claimed that he had neutralised one of the country's most feared kidnappers. A police posse, backed by soldiers, ended a manhunt of more than a year for Red Scorpion gang chief Alfredo De Leon when they surprised him in a rural village hideout near Manila and shot him nine times as he fled, police said. A teenage boy who worked as his courier was captured. President Fidel Ramos, under public attack for his failure to curb a wave of kidnappings for ransom, praised the police, saying De Leon's death "ended the reign of one of society's most notorious criminals. The fight against lawlessness must continue without let-up," he said.

Italian premier wants show of support

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, worried his coalition allies in government are using Italy's huge bribery scandal to undermine him, has demanded a clear sign of their support, political sources said Wednesday. "I'm fed up with being roasted," the Socialist premier told Christian Democrat (DC) leaders at a no-holds-barred meeting. "I want to know what you're up to," they reported him as saying. Mr. Amato has demanded that the DC send him a clear message of support when the Senate (upper house) Friday starts debating last week's resignation of Socialist Justice Minister Claudio Martelli, who quit after coming under scrutiny over the scandal. A flurry of meetings this week between leaders of the main parties, searching for a stronger government majority, has undermined Mr. Amato's shaky coalition despite its comfortable victory in a no-confidence debate on Feb. 5.

Hong Kong, China hint at talks

HONG KONG (R) — China and Britain, deadlocked for months over plans for democratic reforms in Hong Kong, will hold talks soon about the territory, a Chinese spokesman said Wednesday. The spokesman declined to say whether they would be routine discussions or would tackle the fierce row over Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's reform package. Strong press speculation that Britain and China are about to announce a resumption of talks on the dispute has pushed up the British colony's stock market this week.

Toddler murder shocks Britain

LONDON (R) — The murder of a toddler and a court case about the alleged killings of four children in a hospital have shocked Britain as Prime Minister John Major ordered a fresh crackdown on a crime wave sweeping the country. "When a young, innocent toddler is killed in a brutal way, then you are beyond the edge of evil, you are into the heart of darkness," Kenneth Baker, home secretary in 1990-92, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Gunmen ransack Cambodian village, kill one

PHNOM PENH (R) — Up to 50 armed men attacked a central Cambodian village this week, killing one person, wounding three others, and burning down the market and several houses, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

He said Khmer Rouge guerrillas were suspected of carrying out the Monday night attack on the village of Sangkor in the troubled central province of Kompong Thom.

About 40 to 50 attackers ransacked and burnt an unspecified number of houses and the small market, the spokesman for United Nations peacekeepers said. "They extorted large sums of money and they killed one civilian and injured three."

Cambodian witnesses had said the attackers were wearing Khmer Rouge uniforms.

Laureate urges arms ban to free Burma dissident

BANGKOK (R) — The Dalai Lama, joining other Nobel Peace Prize winners Wednesday in demanding the unconditional release of fellow laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, proposed an arms embargo against the junta holding her in Burma.

The Tibetan spiritual leader was one of eight former peace laureates in Bangkok to appeal for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1991 winner, who has been under house arrest in Rangoon since July 1989.

The generals in Burma, which took power after brutally suppressing a pro-democracy uprising in 1988, have condemned the laureates' mission as interference and refused to allow them into the country.

Mission organiser Edward Broadbent, of the Montreal-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, said the laureates were seeking the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners in Burma.

"It is hoped that this mission by some of the world's most distinguished citizens will prove to be what is needed now for determined action by the United Nations," he said.

Next week some of the laureates will take their campaign to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, where their appeal is expected to be backed by other laureates, including former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

They are expected to call for a U.N. arms embargo on the junta.

The Dalai Lama, addressing journalists at the foreign correspondents club of Thailand where the other laureates also appeared, said it was time to take a tougher line with the Burmese junta, which calls itself the State

Law and Order Restoration Council.

"The idea of an arms embargo, I think that this is practical and morally speaking, I think this is right and really worthwhile to consider," he said.

Last year the U.N. General Assembly called on the junta to release Aung San Suu Kyi and transfer power to her National League for Democracy. The party won a May 1990 general election by a landslide but the junta refused to hand over power and arrested or intimidated into silence its most influential leaders.

Another of the laureates, former Costa Rican President Dr. Oscar Arias, urged the world to rally behind the fight against oppression in Burma and in seeking Aung San Suu Kyi's release.

"Having been brutally denied her rightful place to be an elected leader of her people, Aung San Suu Kyi remains courageously committed to the principles of freedom and democracy," he said.

"Refusing to accept the offer of her own liberty on condition of exile from her country, she continues to inspire the people of Burma. Her courageous vigil reminds them that one day the atrocities of the State Law and Order Restoration Council will be only a gruesome memory."

Aung San Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize for her advocacy of non-violent resistance to military rule.

The Dalai Lama praised Buddhist monks in Burma who have joined the struggle for democracy and urged the junta to respect Buddhist principles.

South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who won his prize in 1984 for fighting apartheid, said Sunday he was confident the trips to Thailand and Geneva would get results.

The other laureates are Northern Ireland's Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan-Maguire, Argentina's Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina, Ross Daniels representing Amnesty International and Donna Kyle Anderson, representing the Quaker organisation the American Friends Service Committee.

The Dalai Lama was due to return to India Wednesday evening while the others travel to the Thai-Burmese border to talk to Burmese refugees there.

Human rights groups including Amnesty International have strongly condemned widespread human rights abuses in Burma. They accuse the Burmese army of special brutality in the conduct of its border war against ethnic minority groups.

The laureates' visit to Thailand has provoked controversy between the powerful military and the civilian government.

Armed forces chiefs complained it could damage relations with Burma and with China. Peking has protested at the visit of the Dalai Lama on the grounds that hospitality to the exiled leader help his campaign for Tibetan independence.

Thai authorities have barred dissidents from Burma meeting the group of Nobel Peace Prize winners, the dissidents said Wednesday.

The rebels, who live in the Burmese jungle but frequently cross the River Moei into Thailand, had formed a five-man reception committee to welcome the laureates during their visit to refugee camps on the Thai side of the river.

"Local officials informed us today that they will take care of the reception and urged us to keep a low profile," said U Win Khet, a member of Aung San Suu

Kyi's own party.

"We do not understand the reason but we have to comply with their order. Maybe the Thais do not want to damage their relations with a neighbouring country," he said.

Other committee members are U Tun Aye of the Alternative Burmese Government set up in the jungle after generals seized power in Rangoon in 1988, Pado Yu Shu of the Karen National Union, which has been fighting for decades for autonomy, David Tamadon, another Karen, and a student representative.

U Win Khet said only a representative from the Karen Refugee Agency would be allowed to accompany the Nobel-winners.

The United States Tuesday supported the visit to Thailand by the laureates.

"We're pleased that they've decided to travel to South East Asia to rally international support for the release from house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters. "We share the goal of the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi, herself a Nobel Peace Prize recipient in 1991," who has been under house arrest in Burma since 1989, he added.

Mr. Boucher noted Burma's military regime has denied visas to the group, preventing their entry into Burma.

"Our view has been and continues to be that the Burmese regime should honour the results of the May 1990 elections, and release all the remaining political prisoners," he said.

He added, "We welcome Thailand's support for this distinguished group. As the world community seeks to improve respect for human rights the efforts of these laureates should have everyone's support."

Australian in-laws win Empire State run up

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a case of all in the family for two Australian in-laws who won the 16th annual race to the top of the Empire State Building. Geoff Case, 34, won the men's race up the 1,576 steps of the famed Manhattan landmark for the third straight year. His time of 10 minutes and 38 seconds beat the record of 10:47 set by Scott Elliot in 1990. Elliot, of Boulder, Colo., did not compete. See case 29, the winner's sister-in-law, won the women's division in 12:42. Husband Brian Case, 28, came in 13th, more than two minutes behind his brother, Glen Devision, of Ballarat, Australia, finished second in the men's division in 10:43. Tore Olsen, of Aik, Norway, came in third in 11:00.

Whoopi Goldberg gets Hasty Pudding Award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Actress Whoopi Goldberg named Woman of the Year Tuesday by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding theatre group, discovered that Hollywood has nothing on Harvard when it comes to odd behaviour. Ms. Goldberg, 37, was paraded through Harvard Square surrounded by male students in drag before being presented with the group's traditional honour — a brass pudding pot. Hundreds of a crowd endured a driving snow to watch

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